

## **Holding Onto Your Freedom**

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

<sup>22</sup> When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything now?"

<sup>24</sup> The man looked around. "Yes," he said, "I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around."

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Jesus sent him away, saying, "Don't go back into the village on your way home."

Mark 8:22-26

How Do We Hold Onto Our Freedom?

### **1. Come out**

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, <sup>22</sup> throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup> Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup> Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Ephesians 4:21-14

- we can't stay the same and expect to change
- what are we complaining about that we are allowing in our lives
- our new nature, redeemed nature, is the free man
- we can't live like bound people and expect freedom to reign
- HOLINESS = FREEDOM
- we have to come out of the old lifestyles/habits/thoughts & patterns

### **2. Choose Vision**

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Mark 8:23b-25

See- two different uses of the word (lexicon)

See in verse 24- to look at (1st use- passive- 1st person singular)- what the man saw

See in verse 25- to perceive (2nd use- active- 3 person plural)- Vision

-be honest- Jesus already knew the answer/ he wanted the man to know the power of the truth

-freedom isn't lying about what I see- it's being honest to the one who can trade my sight for His vision

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. <sup>15</sup> For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' <sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.  
Matthew 13:14-16

- seeing in verse 14- same word- to look at
- see in verse 16- same word- to perceive
- where are you settling for sight when freedom came to give you vision
- sight brings bondage- it's only what I can see
- vision brings freedom- it's what HE SEES
  - healing/freedom are found in Vision
- I get vision by what I perceive- the WORD/ His Presence/ His People

### 3. Avoid the Village

Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- we can't go back to the old habits, environments and people
- we have to protect the vision He restores in us
- what do we need to avoid
- some of the people/thoughts/habits who brought you to here won't get you to there
- the enemy won't let you forget your blindness- so don't go back to his territory
- trying to be a believer but going back to the old ways is searching for something that has disappeared...its not even there

This is the Free Life God designed for you:

But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

<sup>12-14</sup> So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!

Romans 8:9-14

Let's get on with it today.

RESPONSE TIME

1. Find your freedom today by accepting Jesus
2. Hold onto your freedom today:
  - Which of these 3 areas is God asking you to take a step in