

Freedom

Freedom Flow

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13(Message)

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life.

- Our prayer for you is that Freedom is clearer to you than ever before and that you stay committed to the freedom journey.
- Today we are going to look beyond our personal freedom to freedom for others.

Freedom to me and freedom through me.

Vs. 14-15

Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.

- Doing whatever you want is "lose" not "free."
- Decide that I won't settle for a self-serving kind of freedom. I want a Kingdom-Serving Freedom.
- Paul's use of "opportunity" is like a military base of operation. *(Do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh but serve one another through love.)*
- We are called (invited) into the reality where Freedom is our base of operation.
Freedom to us and through us! Freedom calls the shots, gives the orders, defines the parameters, determines the strategy, and leads us to fight for the victory of others.

True freedom is expressed through loving others as I love myself.

Galatians 5:16-21 (Passion)

"Let me emphasize this: As you yield to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will abandon the cravings of your self-life. When your self-life craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit, you hinder him from living free within you! And the Holy Spirit's intense cravings hinder your self-life from dominating you! So then, the two incompatible and conflicting forces within you are your self-life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit. But when you yield to the life of the Spirit, you will no longer be living under the law, but soaring above it!

The behavior of the self-life is obvious: Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions, being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, wild parties, and all other similar behavior. Haven't I already warned you that those who use their "freedom" for these things will not inherit the kingdom realm of God!

Freedom is the strategy of God's Kingdom.

- Freedom isn't just so we will be good. God has set us free to restore our identity giving us purpose as carriers of freedom in the earth.
- Existing in the "in-between" of flesh and spirit will short-circuit freedom's work in and through us.
- You don't have to settle for the "war within." You can have a "walk within" with the Holy Spirit. "Walk in the Spirit"
- We are free FROM sin and death TO a life that puts the King and His Kingdom first!

Galatians 5:21-25 (Passion)

But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless. Keep in mind that we who belong to Jesus Christ have already experienced crucifixion. For everything connected with our self-life was put to death on the cross and crucified with Messiah. If the Spirit is the source of our life, we must also allow the Spirit to direct every aspect of our lives.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be freedom carriers.

- The same Spirit that leads us into truth that sets us free now empowers us to carry freedom to others.
- Paul uses these lists to reveal what happens when we use freedom selfishly rather than for others.
- Look at the freedom of life and how it naturally flows from walking with the Spirit.
- When I stay yielded to the Spirit, this "freedom" list is the natural result.

FREEDOM FLOW (Peter and John)

Acts 3:1 (NLT)

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

Freedom Must Stay Fed.

- Peter and John went to church. They were living yielded to the work of freedom in them so they could be ready for the work of freedom through them.
- The danger in trying to live free alone is you will think it was just for you.
- We don't arrive, freedom is a journey, not a destination.

Vs 2-6

² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. ⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

Freedom Sees and Moves Towards Others.

- This was a gaze not a glance. There were hundreds just walking by that day but these two stopped.
- Where did they learn this? It was the way Jesus freed them. There are people all around us just waiting to be seen.
- Don't limit what God can do through you by focusing on what you don't have.
- They didn't let what they didn't have stop them from giving what they did have.
- They took authority over the sickness and released God's power.

Vs. 7-8

⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

Freedom Walks with Others.

- There are people whom God is already working in that you can't see. They just need someone to take them by the hand and help them up.
- Walking out of freedom with others is one of the purposes of the local church. A church of freedom!
- Who are you walking, leaping, and praising God with?

Vs. 9-12

⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John ¹² Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd...

Acts 4:1-2 (NLT)

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Vs. 3-4 (NLT)

³ They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. ⁴ But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.

Freedom Creates a Platform for Proclamation

- Freedom only comes through Jesus. This must be our proclamation.
- Some people will get it and some people will not. That's okay.
- This is the kind of freedom that you can't help but talk about, shout about, sing about. The kind where you are just waiting for people to ask you what God has done for you.
- Your freedom creates a platform for someone else's miracle and salvation.

Vs. 5, 7-8, 13-14

⁵ The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem....⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them....

¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say.

Freedom Flows To Me and Through me To Others

- May the world recognize our freedom because we've been with Jesus. And may there be others standing near that we led to freedom.

Who's free because they're standing next to me?

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