



## Go Free

### Scripture Reading

Romans 8:14-21 (ASV)

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For ye received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: 17 and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but by reason of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God.

### Introduction

During Black History Month, we are reminded of the historical contributions that Black people in particular have made in society. Not only their contributions but also their treatment in American society—historically as forced migrants (with no freedom or choice) and today as people unsure if America is truly the land of the free and the home of the brave. Yet it is our people's journey to bravely live free that has led to so much progress in our communities, in our integration into society and our quest to eradicate racism from our society. As an Africa conceived, British Born Afro Caribbean American, I feel a sense of kinship with my Pan African brothers and sisters around the world who now don several flags of countries where they reside and contribute. I understand that the slave trade didn't just take us from Africa and drop us off in America. Some of our early African ancestors arrived in Europe as diplomats, soldiers, merchants, or sailors, while others were enslaved and taken there. Others were taken to

the Caribbean and expected to die there. But we thrived. There is a pride about our journey that finds resonance in the Scriptures for us.

Sadly today, there are voices suggest that cruel enslavement is or was a choice and that many who have their history or ancestry traced back to enslavement periods, have chosen a life of victimhood and poor mentality and choosing to allow the trauma of the cruelty to live resident in their bones. I cannot think of a more hurtful thing for a person that has gone through cruelty at the hands of another, than to tell them that their attacker is absolved of their sins, and the injured party inflicted the harm upon themselves. Our nation's history and our world's history show us examples again and again, that when one nation determined to enslave another, they didn't just intend to subjugate those who were alive at the time, but they intended for those shackles to be inherited and become mentally, emotionally and culturally innate as a reality that the enslaved would relive generations later. It was the long term way to secure the cruel investment through the long term cries of enslaved minds.

Today's Scripture leans into the motif of bondage and enslavement and deliverance and it shows us that throughout the Bible, we see God delivering mankind and leading us out of bondage.

## **Emancipated & Adopted**

To get into the truth of the text and how it relates to where we are today, we must first understand the difference between 2 words:

**enslavement** — the process or act of capturing, coercing or oppressing someone or a people into becoming a slave.

**slavery** — the system or institution in which people are treated as property and denied freedom. It is often tied to laws, economics, and cultural norms. It can exist across generations and societies.

**Forms of servitude in Scripture ranged from debt-based servitude and household service — which were regulated — to harsh forms of forced servitude, which Scripture repeatedly confronts through God's deliverance story**

Systems of slavery often fractured families and left generations vulnerable. Sometimes the parents of young children were abused or killed, leaving the children as orphans. Those orphans either grew up without their parents or they were domesticated and given a place in the house as a servant while still under the system of slavery.

But Romans 8:15 gives us a powerful statement when Paul said, 15 For ye received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

We are not fostered by an oppressor or lost under the system of fear, but we are permanently adopted by Jesus Christ our Deliverer! Though we may feel tarnished by our past and through the inheritance of a sinful nature, our spiritual bloodline is cleansed by the Blood of Jesus and our inheritance changed through the adoption as His sons and daughters.

- I'm out of the system!
- I'm emancipated, delivered and adopted!
- God didn't just free you from a system — He brought you into a family

### **System of Bondage**

- fear-driven
- survival-oriented
- insecurity about identity
- slavery mentality

### **Adoption**

- relational trust
- inheritance

- belonging
- guidance by the Spirit
- freedom to grow

Paul is actually using Exodus language when he says “spirit of bondage” vs “spirit of adoption.”

## When Fear Was Your Master

- If the first sin was disobedience, the first trauma that entered into the world was fear!
- Fear entered humanity the moment fellowship was broken.
- The first effect of sin wasn't violence — it was hiding.

The passage is in **Genesis 3:9–10 (NKJV)** “Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’”

sin → shame → fear → hiding

- Some of us don't feel held down by others—we're doing it to ourselves!
- Fear has us walking in bondage

Before Genesis 3:

- Adam walked openly with God.
- No fear.
- No hiding.
- No distance.

After sin enters:

- Fear becomes a governing emotion.

[1 John 4:18-19 \(NKJV\)](#) 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.

We don't love Him out of terror. We are not in a hostile dreadful relationship with the Lord. We begin to love Him back because He first loves us.

A relationship corrupted by fear can produce abuses.

How do you know if you're in an abusive relationship?

- when the person says “I love you” but they keep using fear to manipulate you, control you or coerce you into doing what they want.
- that's not love—that's a form of torment w

[Proverbs 29:25 \(NKJV\)](#) “The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”

- When Fear is your master you are tormented and not comforted.
- Sin made Adam hide. Adoption teaches us to come close again.
- Fear says ‘hide yourself.’ The Spirit of adoption says ‘cry Abba.’

## When Faith Is Your Liberator

[2 Timothy 1:7 \(NKJV\)](#) “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

[Luke 17:19 \(NKJV\)](#) “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

- Jesus says this to 1 of the 10 lepers that were healed as they went!

Mark 5:34 (NKJV) 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

- Jesus calls the woman with the issue of blood "Daughter" not just because of the Creator and creation relationship but because she was freed from the bondage of the Law that would have kept her isolated and unclean and she became a daughter by Faith!

## When Slavery is the wrong Choice

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

- once you e been made free—stay free!

When things got rough from the emancipated Israelites, they murmured and complained and said,

Numbers 11:4-6 (NKJV)4b "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

Numbers 14:2-4 (NKJV)

2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

Israel was delivered from Pharaoh, but still had to learn not to think like slaves

- Freedom doesn't mean convenience
  - it doesn't mean that everything is just going to be done for you
  - it's the power to make a decision
  - deciding to trust God
  - deciding to believe that He has made provisions or that He has empowered you to provide
- Liberty doesn't mean we have no accountability—it's the power that comes through our relationship to our Deliverer!
- Freedom means responsibility rooted in relationship
  - we are under His House
  - under His covering
  - under His authority
  - under His care
  - and for the deeply committed to serve Him, we are, of our free will, under His control

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For ye received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Exodus got them out of Egypt.

The Spirit gets Egypt out of us.

Now Go Free!