

The Life of Freedom

- I. Galatians 5:1 (message) "Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you."
 - A. Freedom is not free, it has a price
 - B. We are celebrating Independence Day and a lot of people have no clue the price some people paid for us to BBQ, eat home-made ice cream and shoot off fireworks. (people have given their lives and still are)
 - C. In spite of this freedom, there are about 2 ½ million people in jail and hard telling how many more in bondage from drugs, alcohol or even fear.
 - D. And today in church we have freedom to worship and experience real life, but do we realize the price that was paid for this freedom. Jesus paid a great price.
 - E. In spite of this freedom there are still a majority of so-called Christians that are still in bondage. Slaves to sin.
 - F. Freedom has a price
 - A. We all want something for nothing
 - 1. In America: welfare. There is a welfare mentality in the church
 - 2. Even when it comes to our relationship with Christ
 - 3. **Religion is Cheap, a Relationship Costs You Something**
 - G. Are walking in freedom? Do you have peace?
 - H. It is possible to live a life of Freedom
 - I. 1st step to freedom is a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ.
 - J. Romans 6:16 (message) You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. 17 But thank God you've started listening to a new master, 18 one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom!
 - K. Bob Dylan "You're going to serve somebody"
 - L. You may be a construction worker working on a home,
You may be living in a mansion or you might live in a dome,
You might own guns and you might even own tanks,
You might be somebody's landlord, you might even own banks
But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody, Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord But you're gonna have to serve somebody.
- II. Who's your master?
 - A. Satan or The Savior? One comes but to steal, kill and destroy.
 - B. The other comes to bring life and freedom
 - C. One uses the power of sin to make you a slave. Has anyone

- sinned? How many lies.....
- D. Sin costs you more, takes you to a place and leaves you
 - E. Another little tool the enemy uses is religion.
 - F. He senses you are getting tired of your life, so you start searching and you find this thing called religion.
 - G. Religion is man's best effort to reach God. (vaccine)
 - H. Religion is spelled D-O. It's based on works, following rules.
 - I. The Savior offers a relationship. It is spelled D-O-N-E.
 - J. With Satan the wages of sin is death. He knows that God has to pay you a wage. Separation from Him for eternity.
 - K. The Savior paid the price for your sin when you receive Him as Savior and Lord.
 - L. Now even when you become a Christian (and I use that term cautiously and with trepidation)
 - M. God delivers you from the world and you go and see how close you can live to the edge of it. And then most get sucked back in
- III. Who's on the throne?
- A. Once you make Jesus your Savior, then He needs to be on the throne. In control, your master. (your heart is a throne)
 - B. We might not serve Satan and think we are serving The Savior when we are really serving our Self.
 - C. Satan uses sin and sin has a wage. It is death
 - D. The Savior uses surrender and it brings peace
 - E. Self uses fear and/or pride and it brings weariness. It will wear you out. Fear—you can't sleep, no peace, anxiety.
 - F. Pride—you can fix it, take care of it, you have to maintain this façade, this image. You carry more than you were designed to and it wears you out. (dan 7:25) persecute the saints
 - G. And Fear is the biggie, it's even the root of pride. You can't trust.
 - H. What is the opposite of fear—faith, pride—humility
 - I. There is a place of rest that God wants His children to enter. Free from works. Free from fear of man. Free from false burdens
 - J. When self is on the throne the Devil is still in control and you are a slave. You will not experience a life of freedom
 - K. S—sin, L—lust, A—apathy, V—vices, E—entrapment. Like a cow with a ring in its nose. The enemy just leads you around
 - L. S—surrender, L—love, A—authority, V—victory, E—escape.
 - M. So, can we really live a life of freedom?
 - N. YES, we can live a life of freedom and I'm going to give you the answer right now and not save it to the end.
 - O. Satan or The Savior, Self or the Spirit.
 - P. Are you full of self or full of the Spirit. I can tell.
 - Q. Let me use this word (Heb 4:12) that is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division

of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- R. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. * **14** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- S. There is help. You can live a life of freedom.
- T. If you come to the throne of grace and ask Jesus what you need, He would say the Spirit. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- U. Jesus didn't start His ministry until He was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. The disciples didn't start doing anything for God until they were in the upper room and the Holy Spirit came and breathed on them.
- V. Galatians 5:16 NKJ "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Gal. (message) 5:4 I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. **5** Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. **13** It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. 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. **14** 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. **15** If you bite and ravage each other, watch out - in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then? **16** My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. **17** For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to **how you feel** on any given day. ****18** Why don't you choose to

be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence? **19** It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; **20** trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; **21** the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom. **22** But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard - things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments,

IV. Are you filled/led by the Holy Spirit.

- A. What kind of fruit do you have? If you get squeezed, what kind of juice comes out of you. Love, joy, peace, patience...or Anger, fear, complaining, the list of fleshly things we read in Gal. 5.
- B. How many baptisms have you had.
- C. Heb. 6:2 It talks about the doctrine of baptisms (plural)
- D. 1st When you are saved, you are baptized into the body of Christ. You become a child of God; have a new Father
- E. 2nd Water baptism. You identify with Christ; a new friend
- F. 3rd Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They laid hands on them and they spoke in tongues. Power to be a witness. New power.
- G. 4th Baptism of Fire. New passion
 - A. Math 3:11 "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"
 - B. Fire purifies (clean you up) or destroys (get rid of some garbage)
 - C. Symbol of passion. Baptism of H.G. is when you get the Holy Spirit. The baptism of Fire is where the Holy Spirit has you.
 - D. Fire is Captivating (campfire) Florida vacationer gets baptized
 - E. You women of God need a man that's on Fire (not one that's just

smoking.)

- F. So Pastor Mike, how can I get to the place where I am on fire for God and being led, controlled, literally possessed by the Spirit of God? (I'm glad you asked)
- G. 1st Get saved. Ask Jesus into your life
- H. 2nd Get water baptized. It's an act of obedience that says you are identifying with Christ and going to follow Him
- I. 3rd Be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Ask for more of God. Read the book of Acts. Have someone lay hands on you and pray
- J. 4th Ask God to baptize you with fire. (fire tunnel) It is a daily thing. It's a choice. Choosing to be led by the Spirit.
- K. You might need to repent; you might need to release some things or some people.
- L. To get really filled, you need to be really empty. You need to be humble, hungry and thirsty. In need of the Spirit.
- M. If you put a buzzard in a pen six feet square and open at the top, the bird (in spite of his ability to fly) will be an absolute prisoner. (needs 10 feet to run)
- N. bat cannot take off from a level place. If a bat is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it knows to do is shuffle about helplessly until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air.
- O. A bumblebee, if dropped into an empty drinking glass, will be there until it dies unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it is completely exhausted and dies
- P. A common flea can be put into a box or glass with a lid on it. It jumps up over and over again trying to escape only to keep bouncing back down off the lid. Pretty soon, it will stop trying to escape. Then, you can take the lid off the flea's container and it will stay there until it dies, not realizing it could now jump out.
- Q. there are a number of people that feel like the buzzard, bat, bee or flea. They are struggling about through life, feeling trapped with all their problems and frustrations, not realizing that the answer is right there "above" them. The answer is God. He is here right now

Alter: People who have experienced that fire. Maybe at Ramp. It's not the ramp, but it's the fire. But sometimes you need to go where the fire is, but I don't want to just keep going back to the

camp fire. I want to be that fire. I want our church to be that fire