

## Christian Bill of Rights: Freedom of Speech.

We did not fight for our rights in a war of independence. We have not earned them. Jesus did it all on the cross. But what Jesus did was revolutionary. Our Declaration of Dependence gives us unlimited power.

**John 1:12-13** - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, [even] to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Right=exousía": Permission, authority, right liberty, power to do something. It denies the presence of hinderance, includes the capability to do something or the right to do a certain action. The word also says we have the power to NOT do something.

**Do we live our identity in Christ?** Consider making a list of who God says we are and what He has done to give us eternal life on earth and in heaven. What a difference it makes if I remind myself as often as it takes to walk godly. To live thankfully. To abide surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

**This year's goal for my quiet time is to read five Psalms a day. Exception: Ps 119.** Hopefully I will read the entire book once a month. I find so many things to pray about for others, our country, persecuted Christians in other nations, things I need to confess and for my personal requests.

**Notice how honestly David and the psalmists come to God.** (*And consider Hannah in 1 Sam 1.*) Have you felt forsaken by God? Trials that seem to never end? Fears that only intensify? Have you sinned? Do you have enemies? All of us experience this. This psalm is also a prophecy of the crucifixion, which I did not include for these purposes. Consider that there was an immediate meaning to David in his trials and as prophecy often does, the end resulting in the Lord's ultimate plan. **David didn't write this psalm, the Holy Spirit did.** I have experienced times of not knowing how to pray, being angry with God, not "feeling" God's presence. Praying Scripture back to God is a wonderful way to break out of these times of stagnation.

### **Psalm 22:1-5, A Psalm of David.**

- 1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?  
Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.
- 2 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;  
And by night, but I have no rest.
- 3 Yet You are holy,  
O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 In You our fathers trusted;

They trusted and You delivered them.  
5 To You they cried out and were delivered;  
In You they trusted and were not disappointed.

### **What do we see here?**

Firstly, Jesus' cry from the cross. This section is similar to how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Take this cup from Me." He said Himself His soul was deeply grieved to the point of death. Then He quoted this psalm from the cross.

### **There must have been a trial in David's life where he felt abandoned by God.**

- V. 1-2 David's soul is in anguish and it seems God is not answering. He's asking to be delivered. He wants his "cup" to be gone. He says he is groaning day and night.
- Groaning may mean "roaring". Is David in so much pain he is groaning in a roar of emotional agony? We don't know what was happening to David. So many things were possible; Saul, Philistines, all his enemies. Betrayal. Was **Jesus'** distress portrayed here also?
- Have we felt the same? Where are you God? Why won't you answer me? I've obeyed You and you let THIS happen? Why are You silent to me, Lord? Fill in your own blanks.

### **Look at David's conclusion after his honest outpouring to God.**

- Yet You are holy, You, who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
  - He honors God as holy.
  - David surrenders to God's will with stating who God is.
  - David is practicing living daily in God's presence.
- In You our fathers trusted, and You delivered them
  - He remembers the faithfulness of God and His deliverance
- They cried out to you in trust and You delivered them.
  - He states that God is in control
  - He remembers he needs to trust God.
  - What faithfulness of God do you need to praise Him for?

### **Remember Jesus in Gethsemane:**

**We may also see Jesus' surrender in the Garden.**

**Mark 14:36** And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

- Take this cup from Me (and He knew exactly what was coming).
- But not My will but Thine be done. He surrendered Himself to God's will and plan for our salvation. He was so intense that He sweated like drops of blood.
- The Gethsemane passage states His soul was grieved to the point of death, He was distressed and troubled. Vine's Dictionary defines this word "grief even to the point of death."

**One thing I have noticed in the Psalms and other Scriptures when adverse things happen, they NEVER BLAME GOD. They may question His actions, beg His attention, but never blame.**

In my life I've had to work on this. As I've grown in my walk, it happens less and less. **1 Thes 5:14-16** In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus, pray without ceasing.  
HOW DO I DO THAT?

Do ungodly people seem to be thriving? And you're not? **Psalm 73:13-14, 16-17** 13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure And washed my hands in innocence; 14 For I have been stricken all day long And chastened every morning. ... 16 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight 17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God; [Then] I perceived their end.

Be honest with God. In worship, praise, confession, requests and thanksgiving. Ask God to remind you of His faithfulness. Thank Him for daily "God winks". Ask Him to reveal to you what He has done. Be honest when you don't want to do what He has asked you to do, but pray you would be *willing to be willing*. Ask God to make you willing; ask Him to help you obey. Yet in trials, broken hearts, grief, betrayals or confusion we can honestly with reverence pour out whatever is in our hearts. **(Ps 77)** God is omniscient, we are not hiding anything from Him with falsely pious prayers. Sometimes I don't even know what I feel, it can be so deep. The Holy Spirit reveals truth to me. Another part of prayer is listening, in our busy world; do we take time to hear Him?

### Who is my Advocate?

**Heb 4:14-16:** 14 Therefore, since 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 One who has been tempted in all things as [we are, yet] without sin. **16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

**Our Great High Priest: Jesus the Son of God.**

**Jesus is our High Priest: God Himself is our sacrifice and our advocate:**

**Heb 7:25-26** 25 Therefore He is able also to save **forever** those who draw near to God through Him, since He **always lives** to make intercession for them. 26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

**Our Priest sympathizes with our weaknesses; Our Priest was tempted in all things as we are**

**Heb 2:17-18** Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a **merciful and faithful high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since **He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.**

**1 Cor 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

What do you do when you are tempted? How do you recognize temptations? How about the internal ones that no one sees? Pride, jealousy, anger, rage and the flesh as described in Galatians 5.

### **Let us draw near with confidence, in praise, confession, direction, and comfort seeking**

**Psalm 143:8** Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul.

**Psalm 62:8** Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.

**Isa 53:4-5** 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

### **Confession:**

**Psalm 51:1-4, 10-13** David, 1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ... 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 [Then] I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.

- Only God can wash away our sins. (1 John 2:8-9)
- Notice David did not try in his flesh to renew his own spirit. He asked to be made steadfast.
- David did not blame God that he was caught in his sin.
- David made no excuse for his sin.

### **We will receive mercy and grace to help in our time of need.**

**1 Pet 5:6-7:** 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 **casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**

**Psalm 27:13** [I would have despaired] unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

**Psalm 55:22** Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

**Matt 6:25** "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, [as to] what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, [as to] what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

**Luke 12:11-12** 11 "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, **do not worry** about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; 12 **for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**"

### Our position in Christ:

**Eph 1:3-7**, 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ,
- 4 just as He **chose** us in Him before the foundation of the world,
- that we would be **holy and blameless before Him**.
- In love 5 He predestined us **to adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of **His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved**.
- 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ...

### Living in the identity we have in Christ:

**Eph 1:15-18** For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which [exists] among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention [of you] in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

**Eph 3:14, 16-19** 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ... 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; [and] that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

**1 Pet 1:3-4, 17-21** 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to [obtain] **an inheritance** [which is] **imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you**, ... 17 If you address **as Father** the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay [on earth;] 18 knowing that you were not **redeemed with perishable things** like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with **precious blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, [the blood] of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation

of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**Eph 2:17-22** - 17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, **but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household**, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner [stone,] 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 **in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**

**What if God says no? Has He said no?**

**2Co 12:7-10** 7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this **I implored the Lord three times** that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."** Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Is your commitment to live daily by faith and surrender? Do our emotions match our faith? Do we ask God to show us where to go and how to live the good works He promised to prepare for us beforehand (Eph 2:10)? God's prepared works need to be my purpose.**

**Do our emotions match our position in Christ? How do we grab on to who God says we are and live by that truth? I need to recognize when I have drifted away from abiding in the Vine.**

**How do we counter unbelief? Lack of faith?**

**Mark 9:23-24** 23 And Jesus said to him, " 'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." 24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

Yet again, I put too much confidence in the flesh, I try to muster up faith! I try to make my own faith to move mountains, etc. How easy it is to make ourselves the power source, only to be let down when it doesn't turn out the way we were "believing".

What goals should we aspire to? (These have been mine in the last few years.)

**Psalm 15:1-5** 1 A Psalm of David.

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?

Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness,

And speaks truth in his heart.

3 He does not slander with his tongue,

Nor does evil to his neighbor,

Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised,

But who honors those who fear the LORD;

He swears to his own hurt and does not change;

5 He does not put out his money at interest,

Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

**He who does these things will never be shaken.**

**Mic 6:8** NASB - 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you  
But

to do justice,  
to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

- Do we continually live in the presence of God? What does that look like in your life? Do you need to adjust your attitude? How do we do that?
- Freedom of speech is a two-way street: we speak with God, yet do we regularly allow Him to speak freely to us?
- How do we pray according to the will of God?
- The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.
- How do you praise the Lord? What initiates your praise? Thanksgiving?
- What does it mean to pray without ceasing?