

**Introduction:**

- Theme: There is more to freedom than no more chains! Freedom is one's first step into becoming, or being. Freedom is having limitless opportunity ever before you.
- Last Sunday: All things work together for good...so that we would be like Him. This is what God is after in us and for us...that we would be more like His Son, Jesus. Jehoshaphat, Ahab.
- "But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. **And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him** as we are changed into his glorious image." (2 Corinthians 3:16-18, NLT)
- Many people, when they think of freedom, they think of the event that brought liberation. They stop there. They celebrate there and rarely move beyond there. They have no more chains but they think like slaves/prisoners.
  - Ie. In the movie Shawshank Redemption, James Whitmore plays Brooks an old prisoner doing time for murder. He is released, given a place to stay in a half way house, a job and a few clothes. He does not enjoy his freedom. He writes his former fellow prison inmates: *"I have trouble sleepin' at night. I have bad dreams like I'm falling. I wake up scared. Sometimes it takes me a while to remember where I am. Maybe I should get me a gun and rob the Foodway so they'd send me home."*
- Jesus purchased our freedom so we could become more than we ever would in our chains. I believe that each of us were born for greatness. We were not created for Egypt but for the Promised Land! Did you hear that? You were born for the land of promise! Go get it!

**I. Freedom Means No More Chains...**But you can always go back. We call that backsliding, but you do have the freedom to go back

A. Where the Spirit of the Lord is/or the Spirit is Lord (new Master) there is freedom!

What does it mean to be free?

1. Webster 1828 Dictionary: "A state of exemption from the power or control of another." To act, speak or think without externally imposed restraints.
  - a) I don't like that definition because I want to be led of the Spirit and controlled by Christ.
  - b) I like what Warren Wiersbe said, *"The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master."* And ironically, in Christianity, to find one's Master **is** to find one's freedom!
2. Examples of people made free in scripture
  - a) Jn 3 Nicodemus freed from religious spirit.
  - b) Lk 19:5 Zacheus freed from greed.
  - c) Lk 13:16 Woman with hunch back freed physically

- d) Demonic freed from demons. "Now, go and tell what happened to you."
- e) In 4 woman at the well freed morally. Major move of God in Samaria w Phillip.
- 3. Freedom means to be no longer bound.
  - a) You can be bound by chains. Bound to a jail cell.
  - b) You can be bound by sickness, poverty, etc.
  - c) You can be bound by mindset, the way you think.
  - d) Freedom means to be no longer bound. You can move freely! Free to become!
- 4. Freedom means to be legally free.
  - a) Ie. Emancipation Proclamation! Jan 1, 1863 changed the legal status of 3.5 million slaves to Americans. Ie. When you get to burn your mortgage! Ie. The New Covenant makes Christians justified! No longer guilty.
  - b) NT is a document that declares our freedom, for those who believe. No longer a prisoner. No longer a slave. Alive to God!
- 5. Freedom means to be no longer bound by sin! Hell is an eternal prison of torment.
  - a) *"But now **you are free from the power of sin** and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life."* (Romans 6:22, NLT)
  - b) *"Now **you are free from your slavery to sin**, and you have become slaves to righteous living."* (Romans 6:18, NLT)
  - c) *"And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving **Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.**"* (Romans 8:2, NLT)
- 6. Freedom means having a new government. We have a new master!
- B. There is no greater misfortune than for free people to lose their freedom.
  - 1. *"So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law."* (Galatians 5:1, NLT) The Son makes us free Jn 8:36.
  - 2. If you do not purpose to grow in Christ you will back slide.
  - 3. Charles Wesley, And Can It Be: *"My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"*

## II. Freedom Means Opportunities to Build...But not everyone does.

- A. Build a new life!
  - 1. Therefore we must commit to grow. To become what God desires us to be.
  - 2. When a person is set free they are free to become! If your prison door is opened and you are free to go, it makes no sense to stay in jail. If your chains are taken off it makes no sense to continue to live in captivity.
  - 3. We are called to Freedom - *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."* (Galatians 5:13, NLT)

4. Only God can say, "All things are possible for those who believe!" That just makes a fellow want to start believing and never stop! OPPORTUNITIES!!!
  5. Where the Spirit is Lord, there is freedom and the Spirit makes us more like Him!!!! verse 18. So the question is. Are you living a transformed life?
- B. "More Like Him"
1. Discipleship - "is the process of growth and transformation that takes place in the disciple making him a productive individual in the Kingdom of God both in character and in the making of other disciples." Tim Franklin process of growth and transformation in becoming like Him. Traveler-old English was known as travelers. (immersed in culture, language, ways of the land they went to. It was hard work, took effort, etc.) vs Tourist - one who goes in circles, circuit. Disciple vs. Believer (even demons believe) Disciple is immersed in Kingdom culture. Believers just show up to observe and get information. Two ways that the word transformed is used in the NT.
    - a) Be transformed. This is in the active voice, meaning I am responsible to make it happen.
    - b) Are being transformed. This is in the passive voice, meaning that transformation is being done within me.
  2. The first, be transformed - "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" (Romans 12:2, NKJV) This is a call to a decisive commitment.
    - a) Metamorpho - to transform. The word "transformed or transformation" means to change into something different and implies a major reformation in form, nature or function. Be transformed by renewing the mind. Freed in a moment born again, lifetime in transformation of ones life.
    - b) This has to do with our responsibility to change into something.
    - c) A free man's greatest enemy is his un-renewed mind. IE. Like Brooks in Shawshank. He did not know how to live outside the prison. To many believers do not know how to live outside the bondage of sin, sickness and lack.
    - d) Peter said "*but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*" (2 Peter 3:18, NKJV) He exhorts us to grow. It is something we must commit to do.
  3. Second, being transformed this is something that God is doing, has done with continuing results in us. This is the Holy Spirits work.
    - a) "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" (2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV) Message Bible: "*And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.*"

- b) "To show in a mirror" to make the invisible visible. We reflect the glory of God because the veil has been lifted and we can see the glory. That glory fill us and the Holy Spirit continues transforming us into Christs image.
4. The metamorphosis is a new life! Now continue to build the outside according to what has happened on the inside.
- a) "our part ... *Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.* God's part... *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*" (Philippians 2:12-13, NLT)

### III. Freedom Means Having a Life

- A. The reason Jesus came was that we may live an abundant life.
1. *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* (John 10:10, NLT)
- B. The reason Jesus came was that we would have a Father.
- C. The reason Jesus came was that we might be the recipients of His awesome love!
- D. The reason Jesus came was to make us a part of His magnificent Kingdom and therefore liberators of others with this glorious Gospel.

### Conclusion:

- Do you need to drop the chains that have you bound?
- Maybe you need to purpose to build a better you in Christ.