



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

JOHN 8:31-32

LESSON 20 – FREE YOUR MIND

PASTOR PHILLIP M WAY

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL SCRIPTURE TAKEN FROM THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION. COPYRIGHT © 1982 BY THOMAS NELSON, INC. USED BY PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Truth Shall Make You Free

- ▶ John 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” 33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?” 34 Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

What Are We Set Free From?

- ▶ First we are freed from sin. Because Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and He imputes His righteousness to us now God is able to declare us righteous (justified) and we are right with God. He has taken away our sin and imputed to us His rightness with God. He saved us by taking our sin upon Himself on the cross – the death He died was OUR death – the one we should have died as a result of our sin. (Rom. 6:23) So now we are saved from (freed from) sin.
- ▶ Romans 6:5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

What Are We Set Free From?

- ▶ Secondly we are freed from death.
- ▶ The wages of sin is still death (Rom. 6:23), but because the price for our sin has been paid we never have to fear death! We may die physically, but that is simply a transformation as we step into life in the spiritual realm face to face with Christ. But we will never die spiritually – we will not die the eternal death in hell that the lost will. The death we are saved from is referred to in Scripture as the Second Death. To be separated from the goodness and grace of God and to suffer the agony of dying forever!
- ▶ This could also be termed being saved from judgment or wrath! In examining this closely we see that since we are saved from the wrath of God, we are literally saved from God's justice. We are given mercy and favor (grace) instead of justice and wrath.

What Are We Set Free From?

- ▶ Thirdly we are freed from self! We now have the power from the Holy Spirit to be self-controlled or better said, Spirit-controlled, so that we can overcome temptation and sin and truly live a victorious life! We are saved from everything wicked and awful that we were without Christ.
- ▶ Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

What Are We Set Free From?

- ▶ Fourth we are freed from bondage. Before we entered Christ we were bound in sin. Another term is to be dead in sin. There was no spiritual life in us at all. We were dead to God and would never have even thought to come to Him unless He had called us by His Spirit to salvation. (1 Cor 2:14; John 6:39, 44).
- ▶ In essence to be saved is to be free! Truly free. In reality, our freedom is nothing more than slavery to Jesus! Now we are bought at a price and belong to Him for all eternity.
- ▶ Gal. 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?
- ▶ Gal. 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

What Are We Set Free TO?

- ▶ If we are indeed saved, we now know what we are freed from – but what are we free TO?
- ▶ TO His glory!
- ▶ We are saved to His glory for His good pleasure. He saved us because He wanted to save us! It glorifies Him to show His love and mercy through our salvation. Actually, the Old Testament talks about it being HIS salvation.
- ▶ TO live forever with Him!
- ▶ We are also saved to eternal life – now we can live forever in the presence of God because our sin debt has been paid and we are counted righteous in His sight! The thing that separated us from the Heavenly Father has been removed and we have been reconciled to Him just as He wanted.

What Are We Set Free TO?

- ▶ TO Good Works!
- ▶ Jesus saved us to do good works as well. We have the power daily to do what is right because He has given us freedom to chose obedience to His Word and His will whereas before we were bound to sin. He produces through us the works that glorify Him. He lives through us on a daily basis to help us BE right with God moment by moment.
- ▶ TO have fellowship!
- ▶ We are freed to fellowship. Our ability to fellowship carries us through trials and hardships and gives us reason to rejoice with one another at all that God has done for us! You cannot enjoy true fellowship unless you are serving God with brothers and sisters in Christ. The lost offer no fellowship and no godly counsel. They provide no encouragement or help in true times of need, because they do not know our Father – and even if they are blood related, they still aren't family as much as other believers are and can be! There is a friend closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

What Are We Set Free TO?

- ▶ TO Carry Out a Mission!
- ▶ To continue our list, we are also saved and set free in order to carry out a mission – and that mission is to spread the good news of the Gospel to as many people as we possibly can. We have purpose in our lives, not the least of which is proclaiming the salvation that has been secured by the sacrifice of our Savior!

The Truth Shall Make You Free

- ▶ What is the truth?
- ▶ John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “**I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- ▶ Eph. 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as **the truth is in Jesus...**
- ▶ How do we come to know the truth? “Abide in My Word.”
- ▶ John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Free Your Mind

- ▶ Mark 5:15 Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.
- ▶ Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
- ▶ Romans 12:2 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.
- ▶ 1 Cor. 2:16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Free Your Mind

- ▶ Philippians 4:20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- ▶ Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.