

## Freedom – 5

### Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- The old is gone and the new has come  
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

Habitual patterns can weigh us down and keep us hindered from living the life of Freedom

### Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. <sup>2</sup> We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.\* Because of the joy\* awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

We may confess sin again and again yet continue to fall into it over and over

- We try to gain the victory yet fail no matter how hard we try
- *Maybe there is a past wound that needs healing*
- *Maybe there is something dark in our past*
- *Maybe there is something illicit we have dabbled in*
- *More than likely it is a spiritual problem*

A Christian can not be owned by a demon. But a Christian can be influenced by and come under the control from a demon, even from within. The demon can ride you!

Spiritual attacks from the outside:

No Slide: 2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

- When we humble ourselves the Devil will flee  
– James 4:7

Demonic influence from the inside:

No Slide: Ephesians 4:27 (NLT)

<sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

- We have been made alive and sealed by the Holy Spirit;
- We can choose to live by the flesh or by the Holy Spirit – Colossians 3:7-10
- By living in the flesh we can “give place” to the devil

We need *discipleship* and *deliverance*

Romans 6:16 (NLT)

<sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

## The Foothold of Greed

### Luke 6:38 (NLT)

<sup>38</sup> Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.\*”

- We don't "Take" Offerings
- We don't "Receive" Offerings
- We "Give" Offerings
- As Christians we should bring offerings to God
- It is a principle found throughout the Bible
- The main key is "Love"
- We must freely give out of our love for God

### 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Truth – Our money is already God's

### 1 Corinthians 10:26 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

- When we bring Him our money He is not served by human hands as if He needed anything
- He is the One that gives life and breath to everything

### Acts 17:25 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

- There are only two things we can do with our money according to the Bible
- We either bring our tithes and offerings to God's house, or we rob God

### Malachi 3:8 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings.

Story: You are going out of town and your friend needs work done to his car

- They don't give out loners
- He asks to borrow your car until you return
- You say yes

He picks you up, hands you back the keys and says..

*“I’ve done some thinking while you were away, and because I’m so generous I’ve decided I’m not going to keep the car for myself. I’d like you to have it”*

Many time that what we do with offerings:

*“I’m so generous I think I will drop this money in the offering plate. Here you go, enjoy.”*

All we're doing is returning what God has allowed us to use

I know what you're thinking:

If God owns everything then why does He tell people in scripture to bring Him offerings?

When we let scripture answer this question we will see that bringing Him our money is tied to His great love for us

## **Why give?**

Because God said so

- All through scripture we see that God tells us to set aside a tithe to do God's work
- The word tithe means 10%
- We see this principle repeatedly in the Old Testament

### **Leviticus 27:30 (NLT)**

<sup>30</sup> “One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy.

In the New Testament we see the word tithe eight times

### **Matthew 23:23 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens,\* but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

Throughout the Gospels Jesus talks about God being our provider and not to worry about material possessions

Matthew 6:24-34, Luke 21:1-4

The early Church regularly collected funds at worship gatherings

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

Paul regularly talked about giving as if it were normal behavior for believers

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."\*

Galatians 6:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them.

1 Corinthians 9:8, 9 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> Am I expressing merely a human opinion, or does the law say the same thing?

<sup>9</sup> For the law of Moses says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain."\* Was God thinking only about oxen when he said this?

○ See also 1 Timothy 5:17-18

We are taught to give to those in need

**Ephesians 4:28 (NLT)**

<sup>28</sup> If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.

We should never give to get something from God  
We should give out of love  
Our motives matter

**James 4:3 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

- Motives matter
- It's an issue of the heart
- We give to honor God
- He invites us to give back a portion of what He's given us so we can be part of His kingdom plans

In the Kingdom of God it's the giving that matters not the getting

Any increase is a byproduct – never the motive

**2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT) *when we sow bountifully we reap bountifully***

<sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Most of us don't give because of fear and unbelief

### Malachi 3:8–11 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> “Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. <sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! <sup>11</sup> Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease.\* Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

- The tithe belongs to God
- It has always been normal for God’s people to return what belongs to God
- The Israelites had fallen away from God
- It reflected in the area of tithes and offerings
- It brought a curse of lack and destruction
- When we bring God the tithe He opens the windows of heaven
- It is for today

### Malachi 3:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> “I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed.

- God has not changed



Those of us who tithe would never stop and would say that God has blessed us

Those who don't trust God in the tithe believe they can't afford to do it

### Proverbs 3:9–10 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. <sup>10</sup> Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

- Honor is key
- When we love and honor God, He honors us

### 1 Samuel 2:30 (NLT)

But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.

### John 12:26 (NLT)

And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

When we don't trust Bible principals we are living in fear

We are afraid there wont be enough left over

- There are over 500 verses on prayer or faith each
- There are more than 2000 verses on the subject of money and possessions
- What money really is about is how we handle it
- It reveals our heart condition
- It is really a test from god

Ten is the number of testing in the Bible

- How many times did God test Pharaoh with plagues? – 10
- How many main commandments did God give? – 10
- How many times did the Israelites test God in the wilderness? – 10
- How many times were Jacobs wages changed? – 10
- How many days were Daniel and his 3 friends tested? – 10
- How many virgins were tested? – 10
- How many days of testing are mentioned in **Revelation 2:10**? – 10

Whenever we receive money or get paid it is a test

- Who will I honor?
- Who will I thank?
- Who will we point to and worship as the giver of all good gifts?

When we are afraid to tithe and give offerings the spirit of fear can open up a door to the enemy's influence

He will always go after the one thing that God says belongs to him and try to influence us through greed

There was only one tree that Adam and eve were told not to eat of

- It wasn't because the tree was bad – every tree He creates is good – **Genesis 2:9**
- It was a test to see if they would trust God's word
- Satan wants us to doubt God