

Freedom

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.

- Christ has set us free
- Free from Slavery (Egypt)
- Free from bondage to the law, the flesh and sin
- The old is gone and the new has come
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
- He has removed our despair and darkness
- He has given us victory, strength and freedom
- We never need to return to Egypt

A life of slavery still beckons us

- We find that our old harmful thoughts and former, unhealthy habits are hard to shake
- Long-embedded patterns of shameful living continue to entangle us

These patterns can weigh us down and keep us hindered from living the life of Freedom that Jesus has purchased for us

Hebrews 12:1 (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.

We need to realize the reality and presence of the spiritual realm if we are going to walk in freedom and step into God's plan to bring healing, purity, holiness, and truth

Even though we should be aware of our enemy we need to focus on the goodness of God and our victory

- God has set us free and now all authority has been given to Jesus
- He has conquered death, hell and the grave, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father

Matthew 28:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

1 Corinthians 15:54–56 (NLT)

⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die,* this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory.*" ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*" ⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power.

Acts 2:33 (NLT)

³³ Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

How do we walk in Freedom?

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

² 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.

- This is our victory
- We Win!
- Jesus is interceding for us

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- We are not looking for demons under every rock
- Influence of spiritual evil is more common than we think
 - *The enemy needs to be dealt with*
 - *They will sneak in through spiritual cracks*
 - *The worst thing we can do is ignore the presence of evil*

Freedom is available for us today but we will never get free if we don't know we're in bondage in the first place

- Demons are real but we have the victory!

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Demons are real!

The Demoniac of the Gadarenes

Jesus has just calmed the storm. He and His disciples are confronted by this man as soon as they reach shore. He is naked and living among the tombs.

- He would cry out and cut himself with stones regularly
- The people of the region would try to bind him but he would break the shackles

When he saw Jesus he ran towards Him and bowed down

Mark 5:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” ⁸ For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” ⁹ Then He asked him, “What *is* your name?”

And he answered, saying, “My name *is* Legion; for we are many.” ¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

- Demons want to stay where they are comfortable
- They establish a stronghold
- The presence of Jesus torments them
- Jesus gives them permission to leave and enter a herd of pigs
- They run violently into the water and drown
- The man is clothed and in his right mind

“If we have a specific difficulty in our lives, if we have a continued weakness, if we have an area of sin we can’t get control over, then we may well be under spiritual attack.”

– Robert Morris – Truly Free

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*

The only thing that will keep you bound is failing to admit the struggle you are facing

Transparency and accountability is the key

The devil wants to get you to think that he is not real

– He is!

- The word Demon appears 82 times in the KJV Bible
- In the Gospels alone 61 times
- Jesus either talks about them or deals with them
- Jesus came to set the oppressed free

Luke 4:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.

Matthew 11:2–5 (NIV)

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Mark 1:34, 39 (NIV)

³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Matthew 10:5–8 (NIV)

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

- Demons are fallen angels, disembodied spirits
- Fell from Heaven before the dawn of time
 - The prince of the power of the air – Eph. 2:2
 - Fall like lightning – Luke 10:18
- 1/3rd fell
- 2/3rds are on our side
- We are on the winning team

Some people want to say that Jesus cast out demons in His time but now we can medically heal people so there's no need for that

- Don't buy into that lie
- We would have to cut out a lot of Bible

1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT)

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

The bible differentiates between sicknesses and demon possession – **Matthew 10:8** *heal the sick, drive out demons*

Matthew 9:32–33 (NLT)

³² When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn't speak was brought to Jesus. ³³ So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. "Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!" they exclaimed.

- The devil wants to get us into one of two groups
- The skeptics and the superstitious
- Skeptics believe demons either don't or never did exist
- Superstitious people see demons behind around ever corner

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."

– C.S. Lewis – The Screwtape Letters

Don't be deceived

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

- The devil is real
- Not all sin is caused by the devil
- You can't say "The devil made me do it"

We can't deny that demons exist but we can't see them as the root cause of every problem either
Until we settle this it will be hard to be set free from spiritual oppression

James 1:13–14 (NLT)

¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong,* and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

Mark 7:21–22 (NLT)

²¹ For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.

- We need discipline and the word
- We also need deliverance
- You can read your Bible all day and still be influenced by demonic activity
- *Demons can influence and oppress even believers*