

Freedom Within

Freedom is a difficult thing to comprehend. Many people desire to walk in freedom, yet when they receive it, do not know what to do with it. I, myself, am still learning how to walk out being free as Christ has granted to me, so I am sure that you are doing the same.

Remember when the children of Israel were in so much bondage that they did not have time to look up? They cried out by reason of the torment from their taskmasters. They were crying out to be freed. God heard their cries and sent Moses to deliver them. As the story goes, Pharaoh finally consents to letting them go into the wilderness for a 3-day sacrifice and worship. Yet, before the Israelites departed, many Egyptians gladly gave their gold, silver, precious stones, fine linens, and other gifts to them. This made the children of Israel feel human again and they departed feeling free. Yet before long they fell back into thinking like a slave. Although they were free, within themselves they never comprehended being free. Their freedom was only outward, and they never grabbed ahold of the freedom within. Today we often hear, "God took them out of Egypt, but the Egypt was still inside of them."

We too have been given the gift of freedom through Christ. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" but can we comprehend such a gift? To grasp such freedom, we must have our minds transformed. The apostle Paul said in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..." So we can be free, and our minds still be enslaved until we allow Christ to transform our mind to comprehend freedom.

That's why Jesus said in John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Free from what? Free from slavery (John 8:31-36). Free from anxieties (1 Peter 5:7). Free to approach God's throne (Hebrews 10:19). Free to make your petitions known to God (John 5:15). Free from sin, condemnation (Romans 8:1), guilt, or shame (Romans 6:22). And free to enjoy life with God. Such freedom came with a price – but Jesus paid that price for us! We take hold of freedom by declaring the promises of God saying, "I will let this mind be in me which was in Christ Jesus!" Jesus was, and is, free. No man could contain Him, kill Him, or enslave Him. He is the One that bought your liberties to be free! Galatians 5:1 commands us to, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and do not again be held with the yoke of bondage." In essence, you have already been made free by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Therefore, grab ahold of the words of freedom that Jesus has given!

Dear Jesus,

I pray that they will begin to know the depth, the length, the height, and the breadth of freedom that you have granted. May they come to know that the fears Satan has sent to them does not belong to them. May they no longer be tormented as one who is in bondage to fear because you have made them free from fear and anxieties. May they realize that you have paid the price for their sin, along with its shame, regrets, guilt, or condemnation and that they can walk free in you.

Now Jesus, you have brought them out of the bondage of sin, now take the mindset of the past and transform it into your thought process. I know that you have freed them, yet they may not know how to walk it out. The torments of the past want to swallow them up. But Jesus, you have already set them free! May they walk worthy of their calling. May they believe that they can overcome anything that the enemy tells them. Jesus, I have heard it said, "When Satan reminds you of your past, then remind him of his future" so I pray that they remember who they are in you! They are loved, accepted, and received by you and your Father. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray. Yes and Amen!

As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.
1 Peter 2:16

For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he... Proverbs 23:7

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