

# Freedom in Christ

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*Galatians 5:1*

 **Eternal Walk**  
MINISTRY

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## Freedom in Christ

The definition of freedom from the dictionary is “the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.” This freedom depends on having legal rights; however in this world laws are changing to limit or forbid our religious freedom. In many countries Christians are under the threat of persecution because they cannot act or speak about Christ. So how does Christ set these people free? The apostle Paul was free in Christ and he spent years in prison because he acted and spoke about Christ. What kind of freedom does Christ give us if the world has taken our Christian freedom away?

*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. (Galatians 5:1)* Christ frees us from the yoke of slavery, even if we are under laws against our Christian faith. We can be free just as the apostle Paul was free, even

though he was imprisoned and was executed for revealing his faith in Christ.

## **Christ Sets us Free**

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.* (John 8:36) Christ sets us free from the world by enabling us to overcome the world. *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33) Jesus stated he had overcome the world and he enabled his apostles to overcome the world, and he will enable us to overcome the world. *Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.* (1 John 5:4. We experience freedom in Christ as we overcome the world.

## **The Indwelling Holy Spirit**

*If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you*

*another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17) When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior we receive the Holy Spirit who lives in us and connects us to the Lord. The Spirit helps us in our prayers because he reveals our hearts to God. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13) The Spirit speaks only what he hears, what he hears from Christ he tells us, and what he hears from us he tells Christ. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27) We now have a continuous*

connection to Christ and we can pray and commune with Christ any time day or night. The more we know the Word and the more obedient we are to the Lord's good, pleasing and perfect will; the more closely we are connected to the Lord. The more we serve the Lord and the more we depend on the Lord, the closer our connection to the Lord.

Being free in Christ is to serve the Lord with a dependent heart filled with God's love. When our hearts are filled with God's love we are free from self, and we can never be free until we are free from self. *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* (Galatians 2:20) Paul was free in Christ because he no longer lived for self but he lived for Christ. Living for Christ is a life-long process and is achieved through daily prayer and striving to live for Christ.

## **Renewing the Mind**

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)*

We cannot be free until the Lord renews our thinking and changes the wiring in our brains. God gives us the power to change our thinking by being in his Word, being with other Christians, and praying. As we change our thoughts our brain slowly rewires, new neural connections are made while old neural connections are broken. Our minds are renewing and our brains are rewired corresponding to our thoughts. This is an ongoing process till our last breath, although it can be expedited if we strive to renew our thinking and pray for the Lord's divine power.

Our minds were created to conform to the mind of Christ, and our brains were created to be filled with God's Word. *Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct*

*him? But we have the mind of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 12:6) Christians have a mind that is always approaching the mind of Christ, and the most important thing in having the mind of Christ is to have a mind filled with love. The more of God's love we have in our minds and hearts, the closer we are to the Lord and the more we experience freedom in Christ.

### **Freedom from Self**

God's love in our hearts changes our heart from self and turns our heart toward Christ and others. Love drives us to serve Christ because we now care and have compassion for lost souls. *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Being free from self does not mean we ignore self, it means we trust the Lord who



enables us to take care of self and our love ones. The more we serve the Lord the more divine help we have in taking care of self and our family. *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (Matthew 6:33) *These things* refer to our worldly needs.

### **Changes our Priorities**

Love changes our hearts motivating us to change our priorities and live for Christ. Our life is now centered on Christ, bringing the Gospel to lost souls. We now minister to the world because there is fire in our Spirit driven by God's love in our hearts. We now find things of God more fulfilling and motivating than things of the world.

*And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.* (Matthew 22:37-40) As we approach our

love for the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind; the closer we are to the Lord and more driven we are serve him bringing the good news of Christ to the world. It is impossible to love the Lord as described in this verse without loving people, because love increases in our hearts as we minister to lost souls; having a personnel relationship through teaching, helping, or mentoring. Jesus taught people, he helped people by healing them, and he had dinner with tax collectors and sinners.

Love frees us from self, frees us from pride, and frees us from self-centeredness. Satan tempts us trying to make us self-centered and prideful, and this is something every Christian has to be aware of because Satan tries to get a foothold in our life. *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.* (2 Corinthians 11:14)

*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.* (Psalm34:8) We have tasted that the Lord is

good and we strive to have a closer relationship with him. Obeying the Lord's commands will draw us closer to him and will make us more Christ-like. The more Christ-like we become the more freedom we have.

### **Faith that Pleases God**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)* It is impossible to be free in Christ unless our faith pleases God. Faith that pleases God requires we live as his servant and see Christ as our Master. We pray about whatever the Spirit puts on our hearts and we continue in prayer like a loyal servant, leaving the answer and timing in the hands of God. We trust the Lord even if we don't understand all his ways. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)* When we truly

live for Christ, being his servant and we see God as our divine master, then we will trust him with all our hearts, and we focus on serving him instead of leaning on our own understanding. Our faith increases as we serve the Lord and we are drawn closer to him, meaning we trust his ways over our ways; and our faith now pleases God.

### **Casts out Fear**

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18)* How can we be free in Christ if our thoughts entertain fear from Satan? The more love we have in our hearts the less fear we have from Satan, because God's love cast our fear. God's love and Satan's fear cannot coexist in our hearts. Fear is Satan's main weapon, but God's love triumphs over Satan's fear. Satan will continue to attack us with fear but we call on the Lord for his power to overcome fear. We call on the Lord because the Lord always has control over Satan.

## **Overcome Death**

*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)* We are not afraid of death because Christ overcame death on the cross, and we accepted Christ as our Savior which means we have overcome death. Only our flesh dies, our soul lives forever, and our souls are our thoughts, our personality, our emotions, and our will. We get a new spiritual body meaning it craves things of the Spirit because in Heaven, Satan is gone and we live in the presence of the Father and the Son.

*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. (John 10:28-30)* Our eternal life is secure in Christ for no one can snatch us out of God's hands. *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from*

*the evil one.* (2 Thessalonians 3:3) The Lord protects us from the evil one and we will never be tempted beyond what we can bear. *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.* (1 Corinthians 10:13) This is a very powerful verse knowing that we will never be tempted beyond what we can bear, if we ask the Lord for his strength and endurance.

The only threat to our eternal life is us, letting Satan get a foothold in our life that we justify. Paul overcame this problem when he said, *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* (Galatians 2:20) We die to self and live for Christ which enables us to overcome Satan's temptations.

## **Heaven is Our Home**

We know we have the power from the Lord to overcome all temptations, and we have forgiveness from Christ who intercedes for us. *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.* (Proverbs 4:23) The spiritual heart of a Christian desires to be perfect, serving the Lord and pleasing the Lord, but since we live in the flesh we cannot be perfect. *The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.* (1 Samuel 16:7) Our heart is always striving to follow Christ perfectly, but our flesh will not always cooperate. When we fall short our hearts feel sorrowful because we have sinned against the Lord and we pray for forgiveness and we ask for strength to overcome.

*This is how God's love was revealed among us: God sent His one and only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son*

*as the atoning sacrifice of our sins.* (1 John 4:10-11) We have forgiveness when we confess our sins with Godly sorrow. Eternal life is promised because we have forgiveness from Christ and he intercedes for us to the Father, presenting us as sinless. Our hearts are right with God, we strive to live for Christ, and we can be certain of God's promise, Heaven is our home. *The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.* (1 John 2:17)

## **Summary**

Freedom in Christ is a process where freedom increases in our hearts the longer we walk with the Lord.

- We have the indwelling Holy Spirit who guides us to have the mind of Christ, guiding us in serving the Lord and our hearts get



filled with God's love,  
freeing us from self.

- Our priorities change from self and worldly things to serving the Lord and spiritual things.
- As we minister, love increases in our hearts drawing us closer to the Lord causing our hearts to depend on the Lord.
- As we get closer to the Lord by knowing him more, and we develop the faith that pleases God.
- Our hearts are filled with God's love driving out Satan's fear, including the fear of death because death is our passage to home, Heaven.

All these things develop into our Christ-like character setting us free in Christ. We live for Christ without fear from Satan and Heaven is our home – we are free in Christ. Freedom comes from Christ into our souls; it does not come from the world.



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