

## FOUR KEYS TO GOD'S FREEDOM

John 8:28-37

**(John 8:28-37)**, “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. {29} And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. {30} As he spake these words, many believed on him. {31} Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. {33} They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? {34} Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. {35} And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. {36} If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. {37} I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.”



- S** One of the **MAJOR THEMES** of **PRESIDENT BUSH'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS IN JANUARY** (2003) was **“FREEDOM.”** **Nine times** the President used the words **“free”** or **“freedom.”** President Bush used the word **“liberty”** three times. Listen to some of his statements:
- C** “I will defend the **freedom** and security of the American people.”
- C** “Americans are a **free** people, who know that **freedom** is the right of every person and the future of every nation. The **liberty** we prize is not America's gift to the world, it is God's gift to humanity.”
- S** ON MARCH 23, 1775, MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, **AN EARLY COLONIAL PATRIOT** gave a speech in **St. John's Church in Richmond, VA.** That speech has not been forgotten in American history. That patriot's name was **PATRICK HENRY** and his most famous statement was:

“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, **give me liberty or give me death!**”

- S** The cause of *freedom* has been **A RALLYING CRY** THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF HISTORY. People have been willing to lay down their lives to pursue, and to preserve, the gift of *freedom* for themselves, and for generations to come.

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The reason for this emphasis on *freedom* is that **JESUS** used the word **“FREE”** **three times** in our text.

- C** **(V. 32)**, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **FREE.**”
- C** **(V. 36)**, “If the Son therefore shall make you **FREE**, ye shall be **FREE** indeed.”

- S** THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF *FREEDOM*.
- (1) Democratic nations grant their people **POLITICAL FREEDOM.** *Political freedom* gives the citizen the right to express opinions that differ from the ruling political party.
  - (2) PURSUIT OF **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM** was a major reason that early **settlers** came to America. They wanted the freedom to worship the Lord Jesus Christ apart from ecclesiastical or governmental interference.
  - (3) **ACADEMIC FREEDOM** allows the free exchange of ideas on the university campus without fear of reprisal.
  - (4) When Paul was released from jail, he experienced **PHYSICAL FREEDOM.** He was no longer physically constrained by governing authorities.
  - (5) When Jesus used the word “free,” He was referring to a different kind of freedom. He was referring to **SPIRITUAL FREEDOM.**

**WEBSTER** defines "freedom" as, "A STATE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE POWER OR CONTROL OF ANOTHER."

**WEBSTER'S DEFINITION** is good, but **it falls short** of the **spiritual freedom** Jesus talked about. When Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **FREE**," He was speaking of a freedom that can be experienced even when political, academic and physical freedom are no where in sight. For example:

**S** A PERSON CAN BE **POLITICALLY OPPRESSED** and yet still possess **BIBLICAL FREEDOM**. A PERSON CAN BE locked up and **PHYSICALLY CONSTRAINED** and yet still experience the spiritual freedom that Jesus talked about.

**Paul** was in jail, awaiting trial and possible execution when he wrote the little Book of Philippians. In that context Jesus expressed great freedom.

**(Phil 4:11)**, ". . . I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul was free indeed.

**CHUCK COLSON** was imprisoned for his misdeeds following the days of the Nixon administration. His statement regarding his imprisonment is most revealing. He said, "**I WENT TO PRISON TO BE FREE.**"

**S** **THE SECRET** to God's freedom is most interesting. It is not found by casting off restraint. It is found rather by coming under constraint, i.e., **THE CONSTRAINT OF GOD**. **THE SECRET TO GOD'S FREEDOM IS FOUND BY SUBMITTING TO GOD'S CONTROL.**

JESUS SAID,

**C** "**BLESSED** are **THE MEEK . . .**" (Mat 5:5). One meaning for the word "blessed" is "happy." Jesus was talking about the life that is truly fulfilled and rewarding.

**C** Jesus said the "MEEK" person is the blessed person. The Greek word for "**MEEK**" means "**to be in submission to.**" The word "meek" was used in ancient Greek literature to describe **A WILD HORSE** that had been **captured, tamed** and **domesticated**. That tamed horse became a **submissive** and **compliant** horse. It did not become a weak horse. It was just as powerful after being tamed as it was before. The difference was it had come into submission to its master.

**C** Applying that concept to the Christian life it would sound something like this – *Blessed (happy) is the person who has become submissive and compliant to the will of the Master, i.e, God Himself.*

**C** The idea that *submission* leads to *freedom* may seem a little strange in modern thinking. **How can** a person be in submission to someone else and still be free at the same time? The answer is that when a person is in submission to God, he is in submission to the source of all freedom. Genuine freedom can only be found by submitting to the Author of freedom. The greatest source of **BONDAGE** in life comes from trying to alienate one's self from the source of all freedom. Consider a few stories that illustrate this point.

#1. **JUST IMAGINE**, for the sake of illustration, that **A TRAIN** said one day, "I'm tired of being tied down to train tracks. These tracks restrict my freedom too much. I want to be **FREE LIKE THE CAR** that drives down the freeway and goes wherever it desires." **JUST SUPPOSE** that train jumped the tracks in an attempt to be free like a car. The problem would be that the train was not made for the highway. It was made for tracks. The moment that train jumped the tracks, all it was free to do was to become a wreck.

#2. **IMAGINE AGAIN** that **A KITE SAW AN EAGLE** soaring high in the sky. That eagle was free to go wherever it chose. The envious kite said to itself, "This string is too restrictive. I want to be free like that eagle." **JUST SUPPOSE** that kite broke its string so that it could soar like an eagle. The problem would be that kite was made for a string. When that kite broke its string, all it was free to do was to crash to the ground.

#3. IMAGINE A **FLOWER** that saw a **BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY** flitting from flower to flower. Suppose that flower said to itself, "I want to be free like that butterfly and go here and there as I choose. This stem is too restrictive." Just suppose that the flower broke itself free from its stem in an attempt to fly like a butterfly. Once the flower broke itself from the stem, all it was free to do was to fall to the ground and die.

**S** NOW, LIKE THE **TRAIN** is made for the track, and THE **KITE** is made for the string, and THE **FLOWER** is made for the stem, so you and I are made for God. **ONLY AS** we find **WHAT** God has made us to be, and comply with that, do we truly experience freedom. **REAL FREEDOM** is experienced **only** when we are what God designed us to be, rather than what we want to be. **WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE** IS CREATURES SUBMITTED TO GOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING GLORY TO HIM.

**S** **SOMEONE MIGHT SAY**, "Well, if freedom is found by submitting to God, the Jesus Christ, then count me out. I do **what** I want—**when** I want—**where** I want. I do not want anyone, God included, telling me what to do." **IF THAT** statement represents your attitude in life, **THEN YOU ARE THE GREATEST SLAVE OF ALL**.

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In the previous message, we examined who Jesus claimed to be. He made **FOUR CLAIMS**. By way of review:

I. JESUS SAID HE IS **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** (**8:12**), "... I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

II. JESUS SAID HE IS **THE BEARER OF GOD'S TRUE RECORD** (**8:14**), "... Though I bear record of myself, YET MY RECORD IS TRUE. . . ."

**FOUR REASONS** JESUS' RECORD COULD BE TRUSTED:

- #1. HE **KNEW WHO HE WAS** (**V. 14**), "... For I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go."
- #2. HIS JUDGMENT WAS **IMPARTIAL AND UNBIASED** (**V. 15**), "Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man."
- #3. HIS **WITNESS WAS TRUE** (**V. 16a**), "And yet if I judge, **MY JUDGMENT IS TRUE: . . .**"
- #4. **THE FATHER** CONFIRMED HIS WITNESSES (**V. 18**), "**I am one** that bear witness of myself, and **the Father** that sent me beareth witness of me."

III. JESUS SAID HE IS **FROM HEAVEN ABOVE** (**8:23**), "Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world."

IV. JESUS SAID HE IS **GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES** (**V. 25**), "Then said they unto him, **WHO ART THOU?** And Jesus saith unto them, **Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.**"

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TODAY'S TEXT **CONTINUES THE INTENSE CONVERSATION** BETWEEN JESUS AND THE PHARISEES. In the conversation Jesus PRESENTS THE **KEYS TO GOD'S FREEDOM**. (**V. 28-29**), "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. {29} And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

**S** "When you have lifted up the Son of man" was a reference to "**Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection** from the dead. Jesus death, burial and resurrection served like a spiritual magnet that attracted the people of the world to Him. Jesus' resurrection was God's authentication and stamp of approval upon everything that Jesus ever said or did.

**S** JESUS GOES ON TO SAY:  
**(V. 31-32)**, “. . . If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the **truth**, and the truth shall make you **free**.”

Notice in particular Jesus’ use of the two words: “**free**” and “**truth**.” Jesus revealed **FOUR SECRETS TO GOD’S FREEDOM**.

- I. **BELIEVE GOD’S TRUTH**
- II. **CONTINUE IN GOD’S TRUTH**
- III. **PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE GOD’S TRUTH**
- IV. **LET GOD’S TRUTH MAKE YOU FREE**

### **I. BELIEVE GOD’S TRUTH**

**(V. 30-31)**, “As he spake these words, **MANY BELIEVED ON HIM**. {31} Then said Jesus **TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM**, . . .”

**S** THE TEXT **DOES NOT RECORD THAT “ALL” BELIEVED ON HIM**. IT READS, “**MANY BELIEVED ON HIM**.” The **QUALITY** of their *belief* has been a **source of debate** because of Jesus’ following statement.

**C** **(V. 37)**,

**C** **(V. 37)**, “I know that **YE** are Abraham's seed; but **YE SEEK TO KILL ME**, because my word hath no place in you.”

**S** Whom was Jesus referring to when He said, “You seek to kill me?” He was referring to some of the folks who stood in the crowd that day. **DID THOSE** who *believed* in Jesus have **GENUINE FAITH**, or did they have the kind of faith described in John 2?

**(John 2:23-25)**, “. . . Many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. {24} But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”

**S** REGARDLESS OF WHAT QUALITY OF FAITH THEY POSSESSED, Jesus’ words regarding “freedom” were addressed to those “**who believe on Him**” (V. 31). THAT MEANS THERE IS **A LINK BETWEEN BIBLICAL FREEDOM AND BELIEF**. Another way to say it is that “**FAITH**” is a **prerequisite** for experiencing God’s freedom.

**S** If “**FAITH**” is God’s prerequisite to His promised blessings, then that makes understanding what “faith” is paramount. **What is biblical “faith?”** One little kid described faith as, “**Believing something even when you know it isn’t true**.” That definition is **millions of miles from** Biblical faith. **The tragedy is** that many people believe that statement represents what they would be forced to do if they were to believe the Bible.

**S** **BIBLICAL FAITH** is not grounded in a whim, or fantasy. **BIBLICAL FAITH IS GROUNDED IN “TRUTH.” “WHAT IS TRUTH?”**

**C** IN THE BUILDINGS OF SOME **UNIVERSITIES** is found the words, “**Truth Shall Make You Free**.” In that context truth implies that **accumulation of human knowledge** is the source of freedom. It is true that education can be a source of self improvement. The problem is that education by itself does not change character. For example, if you educate a thief, what you often get is a smarter, more effective thief. Instead of robbing houses, a smart thief can learn to rob corporations. **GOD’S TRUTH IS DEEPER THAN EDUCATION**.

**C** **BIBLICAL TRUTH IS ROOTED IN THE “RIGHTEOUSNESS” AND “HOLINESS” OF GOD**. That is why the Bible often **links** *righteousness* and *truth*.

**(Psa 85:10-11)**, “**MERCY** and **TRUTH** are met together; **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **PEACE** have kissed each other. {11} **TRUTH** shall spring out of the earth; and **RIGHTEOUSNESS** shall look down from heaven.”

**(Psa 96:13)**, “. . . He shall judge the world with **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and the people with his **TRUTH**."

**(Psa 119:142)**, “Thy **RIGHTEOUSNESS** is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the **TRUTH**."

**S** THE BIBLE REVEALS **FOUR THINGS** THAT ARE ABSOLUTE “**TRUTH**”:

### #1. GOD IS TRUTH

**S** **THREE TIMES** GOD REVEALED HIMSELF AS THE **GOD WHO CANNOT LIE** (Titus 1:2; Num 23:19; 1 Sam 15:29).

### #2. JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH

**S** **(John 8:14)**, “. . . MY RECORD IS **TRUE** . . . ”

**S** **(John 14:6)**, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **THE TRUTH**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

**S** WHEN **JESUS** spoke nearly two thousand years ago, He spoke only the *truth*. Everything that Jesus said is true!

**C** What Jesus said regarding **salvation** is true.

**C** What He said about **God's love** is true.

**C** What He said about coming **judgment** is true.

**C** What He said about **heaven** and **hell** is true.

### #3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH

**S** **(John 15:26)**, “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH**, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”

**S** The Holy Spirit is a “**THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH**.”

### #4. GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH - (THE BIBLE)

**S** WHEN GOD COMMUNICATED, **HE COMMUNICATED TRUTH**.

**(Psa 119:160)**, “Thy word is **TRUE** from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

**S** When God had His revelation **PUT INTO WRITING** it was a record of *truth*. The Bible is truth! That is why the **thousand-year-old BIBLE** is just as trustworthy as a Bible published this year. That cannot be said of a thousand-year-old science book.

**S** WHEN THE **DEAD SEA SCROLLS** were uncovered, they took the oldest known Old Testament manuscript in possession at that time back one thousand years. In the process, the Dead Sea Scrolls verified the accuracy of God's written Word. Only the act of God can account for the accuracy between the Dead Sea manuscripts and other O.T. manuscripts.

**S** The reason the Bible **NEVER NEEDS UPDATING IS THE AUTHOR IS “TRUTH.”**

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**THE FIRST KEY TO EXPERIENCING BIBLICAL FREEDOM IS TO BELIEVE GOD'S TRUTH!** A person must believe **THE WORD OF GOD!**

I. **BELIEVE GOD'S TRUTH**

### II. CONTINUE IN GOD'S TRUTH

**(V. 31)**, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **IF** ye **CONTINUE** in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;”

**S** **Jesus has promised us** that we can be one of his **disciples**. What an awesome privilege. God has granted to us the right to sit at the feet of the Lord of the Universe and learn from Him. We can become students of the King of Kings.

**S BUT THE LITTLE WORD "IF" MAKES THE PROMISE CONDITIONAL.** Failure to meet the condition results in failure to receive the promise.

(1) **THE FIRST CONDITION** of Jesus' promise is "**BELIEF.**" We will never experience the promise of God's freedom unless we first believe Him.

**(Heb 11:6),** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

"Belief" in God's truth is **just the beginning** of the process that leads to spiritual freedom.

(2) **THE SECOND CONDITION** of Jesus' promise is "**CONTINUANCE.**" Jesus said, "**IF YE CONTINUE** in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" **THE ACID TEST** of genuine *belief* is **continued obedience to God's Word.**

**S GOD'S WORD IS CLEAR:**

**C (James 2:20),** "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

**C (John 14:21),** "He that hath my commandments, and **keepeth them,** he it is that loveth me: . . . "

**C (2 John 1:6),** "And this is love, that we **walk after** his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."

**S THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER** speaks of **continuing** in God's Word (Matt 13). Jesus presented **FOUR CASE STUDIES** where the **SEED** of His Word fell on different types of **HEARTS.**

(1) Some seed fell on **HARD SOIL** and the birds came and ate it. Needless to say, they **did not continue** in God's Word.

(2) Some seeds fell on **ROCKY SOIL.** The plant sprang up but soon died because of shallowness of the root. Needless to say, they **did not continue** in God's Word.

(3) Some seeds fell on **WEEDY SOIL.** The plant sprang up but was soon choked out by the weeds. Needless to say, they **did not continue** in God's Word.

(4) Some seed fell on **FERTILE SOIL.** The plant sprang up and produced fruit sixty and a hundredfold. These seeds represented those who continued in God's Word.

**S THE PARABLE OF THE WISE MAN** demonstrates the difference between continuing and not continuing in God's Word (Matt 7). The wise man built his house upon the rock, while the foolish man built his house upon the sand. The rains, winds and floods came and beat against both houses. The house that was built upon the rock stood the test of the storm. Key to understanding that parable is to understand that **THE "ROCK" REPRESENTED GOD'S WORD.**

**C (Mat 7:24),** "Therefore whosoever **HEARETH** these sayings of mine, and **DOETH THEM,** I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon **A ROCK:**"

**C** The person whose life is built upon the "ROCK" is the person who not only hears God's Word, but who **DOES GOD'S WORD.** In other words, they **CONTINUE** in God's Word.

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**THE SECOND KEY TO EXPERIENCING BIBLICAL FREEDOM IS TO CONTINUE IN GOD'S TRUTH!**

- I. **BELIEVE** GOD'S TRUTH
- II. **CONTINUE IN** GOD'S TRUTH

### III. PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE GOD'S TRUTH

**(V. 31-32)**, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, . . . "

**S** THE **KEY WORD** at this particular point IS "**KNOW.**" THE GREEK VERB "YE SHALL KNOW."

**C** IT IS **INDICATIVE**. It expresses **a statement of fact** in relationship to **reality**. It indicates **an assertion of certainty**.

**C** IT IS **FUTURE TENSE** – "You **SHALL** know the truth." The promise takes place in the future for the person who "believes" and "continues" in God's Word.

& Jesus said to those "**which BELIEVED on him.**"

& "**If you CONTINUE in my word.**"

& "You **SHALL KNOW** the truth."

**S** "**GINOSKO**" ("know") means "**to come to recognize and to understand completely.**" **RATHER THAN "TRUTH"** being **an abstract concept**, it is presented as **A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**. When a person **believes** God's Word and **continues** in God's truth, then that person **experiences God's truth** in a personal manner.

**S** THE **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF TRUTH IS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN** those who **truly believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ, and **those whose who do not**. God's children **know** and personally **believe** God's truth. Those who do not know God, do **not believe** and do **not know** God's truth.

**S** THE SCRIPTURE GIVES MANY EXAMPLES OF THIS FACT:

**C** **(1 Cor 1:18)**, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

**C** **(1 Cor 2:14)**, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can

he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (The natural man doesn't "know.")

**C** **(Prov 16:25)**, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (They didn't "know.")

**C** **(Luke 10:21)**, "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." (The babes "know")

**C** **(Mat 16:16-17)**, "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. {17} And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (Peter "knew")

**C** **(John 14:21)**, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and **WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM.**"

Those who keep God's commands and love the Lord will be blessed with Jesus manifesting Himself to them. **THEY "KNOW."** That kind of person **can know** the deep things of God in a way that others cannot know.

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**THE THIRD KEY TO EXPERIENCING BIBLICAL FREEDOM IS TO CONTINUE IN GOD'S TRUTH!**

- I. **BELIEVE** GOD'S TRUTH
- II. **CONTINUE IN** GOD'S TRUTH
- III. **PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE** GOD'S TRUTH

#### **IV. LET GOD'S TRUTH MAKE YOU FREE**

**(V. 31-32)**, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the truth, and **THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.**"

**S** God's "truth" makes you free! God does it. God's Word is truth.

**S** IT IS WHAT GOD'S TRUTH DOES FOR US, IT IS NOT WHAT WE DO OURSELVES.

**(V. 36)**, "If the Son therefore shall make you **FREE**, ye shall be **FREE INDEED.**"

**S** THERE ARE **TWO KINDS OF FREEDOM** THAT GOD WANTS EVERY PERSON TO EXPERIENCE:

##### **#1. FREEDOM FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN**

###### **A PROPHECY CONCERNING JESUS:**

**(Isa 61:1)**, "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to PROCLAIM LIBERTY to the captives**, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;"

**S** That Old Testament passage speaks of being delivered from the bondage of sin. The Bible says we are all sinners (Rom 3:23). David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psa 51:5). It is as if we are born on the fence leaning toward sin. We are born with a proclivity toward sin. There is no such thing as a person who hasn't sinned, except for the Lord Jesus Christ.

**S** **THE GREATEST BONDAGE** on the face of the earth is not slavery to other people, or to other nations. The greatest bondage on earth is not incarceration in a prison. The greatest bondage on earth is the bondage of sin. If we die without experiencing God's forgiveness for our sin, we will spend eternity separated from God. **THEREFORE, THE GREATEST**

**FREEDOM ON EARTH IS THE RELEASE FROM THE BONDAGE AND CONDEMNATION OF SIN.** The release from sin can only come from one place in the entire universe. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

**S** As Jesus spoke to the crowd that day, He told them that when He was lifted up, they would know that He was telling the truth (V. 28). **REAL SPIRITUAL FREEDOM** comes when sin is forgiven through Jesus Christ.

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The truth that Jesus shared that day **UPSET THE CROWD. THEY REACTED** BY SAYING:

**(V. 33)**,

**(V. 33)**, ". . . We be Abraham's seed, and **WERE NEVER IN BONDAGE TO ANY MAN:** how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"

###### **S** **THEY ERRED IN TWO POINTS:**

(1) They accused Jesus of not knowing what He was talking about. They stated that they had never been slaves. But the truth was, the Jews over the course of years had been slaves to the **Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and Greeks.** In Jesus' day they were in bondage to **Rome.**

(2) They misjudged regarding the kind of freedom Jesus was talking about. Jesus wasn't talking about slavery to nations, He was talking about slavery to sin. They were in bondage to sin. That is why Jesus said:

**(V. 34)**, "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**"

Spiritual bondage to sin is far more destructive than physical bondage to another nation. The **wonderful news** is this, Jesus takes our sin and he offers forgiveness. That is why

He died on the cross. He was willing to take our sin and give to us His righteousness and His forgiveness.

When God gives forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ, that is when **THE CAPTIVE IS SET FREE**. It is a wonderful and liberating experience when God washes a person's sins away and sets the captive free.

**A LADY ONCE PRAYED TO RECEIVE CHRIST.** After her prayer, she took her hands and placed them on her shoulders and said, "I feel like a burden has been lifted off." That was her way of expressing her new freedom in Christ.

That is the way I felt after receiving God's forgiveness through Jesus. I didn't demonstrate it the way she did, but I felt it nonetheless. God took the guilt, the shame, the sin and forgave me. He washed them away through the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **S SEVEN THINGS GOD DOES WITH SIN THAT HAS BEEN FORGIVEN:**

- (1) HE CASTS THEM INTO THE **DEPTHS OF THE SEA**  
(**Micah 7:19**), "... Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."
- (2) HE REMOVES THEM AS FAR AS **EAST FROM WEST**  
(**Psa 103:12**), "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."
- (3) HE **BLOTS THEM OUT**  
(**Isa 43:25**), "... Blots out thy transgressions . . ."
- (4) HE **COVERS THEM**  
(**Psa 85:2**), "... Thou hast covered all their sin."
- (5) HE **REMEMBERS THEM NO MORE**  
(**Jer 31:34**), "... I will remember their sin no more."
- (6) HE MAKES THEM **WHITE AS SNOW**  
(**Isa 1:18**), "... Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
- (7) HE **CLEANSSES THEM**  
(**Jer 33:8**), "And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, . . ."

**S THAT IS FREEDOM!** That is joy! That is what Jesus came to give.

- C (**1 John 1:7**), "... The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- C (**1 John 1:9**), "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

## **S CHARLES WESLEY**

He breaks the power of reigning sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

#1. FREEDOM FROM **THE BONDAGE OF SIN**

## **#2. FREEDOM FROM THE LIES OF SATAN**

**S IF GOD'S TRUTH SETS A PERSON FREE, THEN IT MAKES SENSE THAT SATAN'S LIES CAN ENSLAVE THEM.** Jesus clearly revealed that Satan is a liar:

(**John 8:44**), "... He . . . **abode not** in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **HE IS A LIAR**, and the father of it."

- C SATAN LIED TO **ADAM and EVE** in the Garden of Eden. He told Eve, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen 3:1). She believed and acted on the lie, and rather than experiencing freedom, she became a slave to sin.
- C IN THE WILDERNESS SATAN PRESENTED **THREE LIES** TO JESUS with the design of defeating Jesus. Jesus' response to those four lies in Matthew 4 was to speak the truth of God's Word. He answered those lies with truth, i.e., the Word of God.

**S SATAN'S LIES ARE AIMED DIRECTLY AT GOD'S TRUTH.** "Yea, hath God said?" Satan's goal is to **create distrust** regarding the truthfulness of God.

**S** SATAN'S DEVICES ARE BUILT ON "LIES." His lies come in many forms. Satan tells us our worth is based on what has been called **THE FOUR KILLER "B'S."** We have been told that we are acceptable if we have **beauty, brawn** (muscle), **brains** (intelligence) and **bucks** (money). Society often accepts or rejects on the basis of those four realities. God's basis of acceptance is totally different. God bases His acceptance of us upon our acceptance of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. When we accept His Son, He accepts us and He gives us His freedom. And He says:

**(John 8:32)**, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**(John 8:36)**, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

**C** That is real freedom! People are trying to find freedom in all the wrong places. They are trying to find freedom in drugs, sex, etc., and all they find is bondage. Real freedom is found in Jesus. Real freedom comes when we find and experience who it is God has made us to be.

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REAL FREEDOM IS FOUND WHEN WE:

- I. **BELIEVE** GOD'S TRUTH
- II. **CONTINUE IN** GOD'S TRUTH
- III. **PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE** GOD'S TRUTH
- IV. **LET GOD'S TRUTH SET US FREE**

**C** **(2 Cor 3:17)**, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

**S** **DO YOU HAVE THAT FREEDOM?** If you don't, you can. Make a commitment to believe the truth of God's Word. Make a commitment to believe the one who is "THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE" (John 14:6). Place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**S** **DON'T STOP THERE.** Some folks have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, i.e., they have believed. Now, they need to start doing the Word of God. They need to continue in the Word of God on a daily basis, i.e., to walk in the truth. Then they will experience the freedom that only God can give.

### **MONKEY & RICE**

Do you know how some people catch monkeys? Monkeys are greedy little creatures. Animal dealers have been known to take a coconut and fastened it to a tree by a chain. They would cut a small hole in the top of the coconut and then place some rice inside the coconut. The monkey would come investigate the coconut and find the rice. He would stick his little hand in the hole in order to get a hand full of rice. When he clinched his fist around the rice, his fist became larger than the hole in the coconut. When he tried to pull his fist out, it would not come out because it was too large. Did that mean the little monkey would let go so that he could have his freedom? No – not at all. The monkey clung to the rice refusing to let go until his captors came and took him away. How often do we cling to lies, refusing to let go and trust God? It is time to let go and trust God. He alone is the author of freedom.