



BUILD CHARACTER FREEDOM

SPIRITUAL OUTCOME DEFINED

Experiences freedom in ever-increasing ways from the power of sin by surrendering to God, relying on the Spirit and engaging in Christ-centered community.

SPIRITUAL OUTCOME DESCRIBED

When we put our faith in Jesus, we are immediately released from the penalty of our sin because the forgiveness Christ purchased through His death and resurrection has been applied to us once and for all. In the same moment, we are also restored to the very presence of God that we might live with Him and for Him, the way we were designed.

If we follow Jesus, we are under the management of grace, not sin. As the Apostle Paul explains, "sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). We all know, however, that sin and temptation do not go away over night. While the penalty and power of sin has been removed, the presence of sin and its influence is still around, vying for our love and attention. This is because sin is not merely a behavior problem, but a worship problem. We all were made to live *for* something and it's only as we live with God and by His guidance that we experience true freedom.

In a world that calls many sins good and defines freedom as doing whatever feels right to you, it can be difficult to keep a clear head on what true freedom is. Freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want to do. True freedom is found when one operates fully in the boundaries in which one was created. If we were created to know God and enjoy Him forever, we are most free as humans when we are operating fully in our design and the boundaries that come with them. Therefore, anything that gets in the way of our design is slavery. True freedom is also not just freedom *from* something, but freedom *to* something. Jesus sets us free to be truly human- to be like Him and with Him. And, He sets us free to do good works of love and sacrifice that we might point others to the true freedom that is available to us!

The fact is, if you have a relationship with Christ, you are truly free, for "If the son has set you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). If we are not experiencing this freedom, it's not because we don't have it, but because we are turning aside to the things we've been freed from instead of the One who has freed us. If we remain connected to Jesus through His Spirit, we will be captivated by His love, grace and beauty in such a way that all else pales in comparison. As it says in Galatians, "walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (5:16). We also live free by leaning into the Body of Christ, where we experience the beauty of the gospel in action. We were never meant to fight alone.

To diminish this power we have in and through the Holy Spirit, or to attempt to live in our own strength instead of in community, is to minimize the gospel and to neglect the abundant kind of living that is available to us in Christ.

"The secret to freedom from enslaving patterns of sin is worship. You need worship. You need great worship. You need glorious worship. You need to sense God's greatness and be moved by it - moved to tears and moved to laughter - moved by who God is and what He has done for you."

- Timothy Keller

EVIDENCE OF THIS SPIRITUAL OUTCOME IN A PERSON'S LIFE

- Experiences an increase in desire to please the Lord instead of the flesh.
- Can name past destructive patterns that are no longer active in one's life.
- Relies on and turns to the Spirit in times of temptation.
- Has the desire, ability, and practice of helping others gain true freedom.

GUIDANCE

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

DEUTERONOMY 30:11-14

Observations:

Discernment Question: To what extent do you believe that, by grace, you can overcome destructive patterns of living?

GALATIANS 5:1

Observations:

Discernment Question: What form does slavery take in your life? (anxiety, depression, guilt, shame, cynicism, gossip, fear, coveting, negativity, etc.) How does it wreak havoc in your life?

PROVERBS 20:1, 23:20-21

Observations:

Discernment Question: How well do you control your physical appetites for food, drink, or other physical substances?

GALATIANS 6:1-2

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are you committed to restoring a brother or sister in Christ who is in sin? Do you regularly help other believers by bearing their burdens? How have you let others do the same for you in community?

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you consider seeking help from others to resist sin as weakness or strength? How have you experienced the power of community when it comes to resisting temptation? How have you experienced the power of sin due to the lack of Christian community?

ROMANS 6:1-14

Observations:

Discernment Question: What areas of your current life are characterized by the new and resurrected life in Christ?

ROMANS 13:13-14

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you engage in any form of sex outside of marriage (premarital, extramarital, pornography, etc.)? If so, why? Have you invited the Spirit into this area of your life?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

Observations:

Discernment Question: What most tempts you, currently? What way out does God provide?

EPHESIANS 5:18

Observations:

Discernment Question: What does it look like for the Spirit of God to replace drunkenness or other things you turn to for fulfillment in your life?

TITUS 2:11-14, 3:3-5

Observations:

Discernment Question: How is grace teaching you to renounce and move beyond past destructive patterns? How is your salvation saving you now, not just for heaven but for true freedom today?

JAMES 1:12-15

Observations:

Discernment Question: How do you see desire and temptation giving birth to sin in your own life? What are some of the patterns you can recognize and disarm? What are practical things you can do to avoid these patterns in the future?

NEXT STEPS

What are practical next steps you will do based on what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture about living in freedom? Include insights offered from others in your Life Group that could be applied in your own life, as well.

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:11-14, NIV

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Titus 2:11-14, NIV

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

WATCH

Use this page to take notes on the watch. Find the watch online at: <http://wecanbefree.org>

Part Three: Staying Dead

Intro:

Sin doesn't control where you go when you die:

Sin doesn't have to control what you do while you live:

In Christ, what is true of Him becomes true of you:

Sin is no longer your master:

So what? Romans 6.

Declare:

When you wrestle with sin, which side of the argument do you identify with?

Decide:

Devote:

Now what?



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We have been set free through Jesus.

John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Galatians 5:1

*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.*

Do we walk in that freedom daily? All of us would have to say that many days we don't.

This week read/pray through John Eldridge's "Daily Prayer for Freedom" every day. You can pray it multiple times a day, or just start your morning with this. It will take about 7-10 minutes; it's worth it.

If you have any questions about words or concepts in the prayer, reach out to your group and ask for clarity.

Find the "Daily Prayer for Freedom" on John Eldridge's website. You can read it or listen to it. Make it a daily practice this week.

<https://www.ransomedheart.com/prayer/daily-prayer>

If we walk to walk free and not pick up our burdens again, then we need to practice standing firm in that freedom.

Write out the parts of the Daily Prayer for Freedom that you MOST need to be reminded of below. Consider putting this on your bathroom mirror or some other place where you will see it daily.