

THE POWER OF FREEDOM

John 8:31-36, Galatians 5:1

- **In THE POWER PRINCIPLE series we've learned about the POWER of faith, fellowship, fruitfulness, and firstfruits.**
- **We won't fully experience the power of the principles we've learned unless we learn how to access "the power of freedom" in our lives.**
- **Too many people live powerless lives because they are trapped by the sin of their lives.**
- Jesus - *"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin."* (John 8:34)
- **Freedom from every hurt, habit, or hang-up in life has been made available through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- Jesus - *"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36)
- ***How can we live in the freedom of Christ for our lives?***

We Will Live In Freedom When We:

ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRAP OF SIN

- Jesus - *"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin."* (John 8:34)
- **Every person has been trapped by their sins at some point in their lives.**
- **"***For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."* (Romans 3:23)
- *"An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him."* (Proverbs 5:22)
- **Sin comes from the Greek word "hamartia" which means to miss the mark, and one of the Hebrew words "chata" which means separated from God.**
- *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.* (Galatians 5:19-21)

- **We live in a world that teaches us to follow our hearts which is some of the worst advice that someone can give.**
- *"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"* (Jeremiah 17:9)
- **No one sets out intending to be "trapped" by their sins, but that's a guaranteed result of what happens when we continue in our sins.**
- ***What sins am I currently trapped in?***

We Will Live In Freedom When We:

APPLY GOD'S <u>TRUTH</u> TO OUR LIVES

- Jesus - *"You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32)
- ***What truths is Jesus talking about that will set us free?***
- **We will be set free when we apply the *Truth Of Humility.***
    - Jesus - *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 5:3 NIV)
    - **Freedom is unavailable to anyone who doesn't realize their total dependence upon God.**
- **We will be set free when we apply *The Truth Of Healing.***
    - Jesus - *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."* (Matthew 5:4 NIV)
    - **If we don't confront how we've been hurt and how we've hurt others we will miss out on God's healing and stay blinded to the truth.**
    - *You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there!* (Jeremiah 6:14 TLB)
- **We will be set free when we apply *The Truth Of Surrender.***
    - Jesus - *"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."* (Matthew 5:5 NIV)
    - **Meekness is not weakness, it's power surrendered to the will of His master.**
- **We will be set free when we apply the *Truth Of Confession.***
    - Jesus - *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* (Matthew 5:8 NIV)
    - **When we confess how we have been hurt and how we have hurt others it allows us to see God clearly so he can lead us into freedom.**
- **We will be set free when we apply *The Truth Of Repentance.***
    - Jesus - *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* (Matthew 5:6 NIV)
    - **The picture of repentance is soldiers marching in one direction, the commanding officer saying "about face", and the soldiers turning around to march in the opposite direction.**

    - **We have to willingly submit to every change God wants to make in our lives and partner with Him to remove our character defects.**
- **We will be set free when we apply *The Truth Of Forgiveness.***
    - Jesus - *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."* (Matthew 5:7 NIV)
    - **Refusing to forgive those who have hurt us invites tormentors into our lives to influence our lives through deception.**
- **We will be set free when we apply *The Truth of Peacemaking.***
    - Jesus said, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."* (Matthew 5:9 NIV)
    - **Making amends with those we have hurt disarms the enemy.**
- ***What truths are you currently not applying to your life?***

We Will Live In Freedom When We:

ACTIVELY <u>TOIL</u> TO STAY FREE

- Paul said, *"So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free."* (Galatians 5:1)
- **Applying the truth of the word of God will set us free from the trap of sin in our lives, but we have to continue to do the work necessary to stay free.**
- ***What work must we do to stay free from the trap of sin?***
- **We will stay free when we quickly *Admit When We're Wrong.***
    - ***"****If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall."* (1 Corinthians 10:12)
    - **The Chrisitan life is less about being good at avoiding mistakes but more about being good at repenting and confessing quickly when we make mistakes.**
- **We will stay free when we consistently *Protect Our Devotion Time.***
    - *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."* (Colossians 3:16 ESV)
    - **There's nothing more important than our time spent in pursuit of knowing God more intimately.**
    - **We have to set a daily appointment with God in worship, prayer, and Bible study and resolve to not allow anything to interfere with it.**
- **We will stay free when we continually *Serve The Lord By Serving Others.***
    - *"Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."* (Galatians 6:1)
- **We are like conduits for the Holy Spirit; He fills us up so that we can pour back out.**

- **When we disregard helping others escape the trap of sin after God has helped us, we will lack purpose and may find ourselves trapped again.**
- *"It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning."* (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- **Engaging in the work of making disciples and helping people get free will lead to persecution from others.**
- Jesus - *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 5:10 NIV)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***