

Transformed from Captive to Free

Reflect

- 1) What do people usually mean when they talk about “freedom?” What freedoms are most important to us?
- 2) What do you think biblical freedom looks like? How might God define freedom?
- 3) Who or what things hold people captive in this world? Mention any you can think of.

Read Your Bible

- John 8:32-36
- Galatians 5:13-26
- Romans 6:11-14

Apply God’s Word to Your Life

- 1) From what does Jesus promise to set His followers free? Why is it the deepest form of captivity?
- 2) Are there any sins or hang-ups currently holding you captive?
- 3) According to Galatians 5:16, how can we live in freedom?
- 4) What are some simple ways you can “keep in step with the Spirit” and honor Jesus with your freedom? How do you think God wants to use you to bring freedom to others?

“Sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14). Have you considered recently what it means to be “free”? Not merely free to move and act as you please, but truly free in God’s eyes? Jesus says that all who sin are made captives to sin. Then, He goes on to say that the Son can set us free. Captivity and deliverance are two enormously important themes and truths in the Bible. God has always heard the cry of the oppressed and He fervently cares about those in physical, emotional, mental and spiritual prisons. The Holy Spirit is given to us so that we might be free, but most Christians are still prisoners of someone or something and do not even know it. We are burdened down with addictions, secret sins, harmful mindsets, greed, lust, idols, pride and misery that are shattering our lives and our witness for Christ. How many of us have really experienced what it means to be free in Christ, free from every form of bondage and fully living in “freedom?” This is not a small-minded freedom to sin, which can only drive you back to the chains of the captivity. It is freedom to live, move and breathe in God without hindrance, living righteously, honorably and holy in His presence. It is God bursting forth out of every cell of your body in glorious majesty and light, bringing the beauty of God and His goodness in every word, work and motive. “Who the Son sets free, will be free indeed.” Free from the grip of sin. Free to love God and others. Free to trust God and live a life of fullness in His presence. Free to be a faithful spouse, a wise parent, a true friend, an honest worker, a creative thinker, a forgiven child, a prayer warrior, a worshiper of God, and a beloved saint. Have you claimed this freedom over your life? It is your birthright in Jesus Christ. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” Take hold.

Pray

Lord God, You are our freedom, our deliverance, and our resting place. You know the captivities we fall into. You see the burdens we bear and the sins we hide. We have often faltered. But, the debt was paid. Enough is enough. There is freedom in You, and no true freedom apart from You. Your Cross sets sinners free and Your life makes us new people. Surge through me, strengthen me, renew my heart with Your promise and power. Jesus Christ, be present in my life and help me take the stand against my old slaveries. You have given us Your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes now and use us to break the chains of others in this world. For the sake of Your holy name. Amen.