

# Freedom

Human beings long for freedom. Wars are fought for it. Countries build statements around freedoms in their constitutions. What is it that we long for? The dictionary defines freedom as: *the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action; liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another.*

The Bible tells us that until we know Jesus Christ, our lives are stuck in the power of Satan, the evil one. We are stuck in experiences such as: *hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, self ambition, divisions, envy, the feeling the everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, sexual immorality, impure thoughts, participation in demonic activities, drunkenness, and wild parties.*

*(from Galatians 5)* In fact, we are told that when we live out this bondage to it's ultimate end, we actually will die because, *"the wages of sin is death."* *(Romans 6)*

God is committed to each of us living a truly free life. He has made it possible for us to live in freedom by exchanging our bondage and brokenness for new power and life in relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus died for our bondages and their consequences so we could live in freedom. Through Jesus, God has attacked our problems at the roots. True freedom is found as we turn our life

over to God, invite God to show us how to live, and then obey what He tells us. Through God's power, I become empowered to choose for goodness and truth. Without God's power, I make choices that ultimately hurt myself and others.

Am I living free? God says there are signs that will indicate to us whether we are or not. If we are living free we will find that we are able to say "yes" and "no" at appropriate times in the changing circumstances of life and "stick with it." *You have been called to live in freedom - not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love."*

**You will  
know  
the truth  
and  
the truth  
will set you  
free.**

God says that when the Holy Spirit controls our lives these are the things we will experience: *Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control.* So, I simply need to ask myself, "what am I experiencing today?" The better we know Christ and walk with Him one day at a time, the more empowered we will be. By continuing to take personal responsibility for our attitudes and actions, asking for forgiveness when we are wrong, and making amends with those we have wronged, we will be amazed at how much we will experience true freedom.