

Free To Fly

I heard a story about a farmer in Mexico who used to transport live chickens to market every day. He had a long pole which he carried over his shoulders. He would take 12 chickens, tie their feet together loosely with twine, then drape six on one side of the pole and six on the other. That way they were taken to market without being butchered. When he got to market he would ease them off the pole but leave their feet tied so they couldn't walk away. At the end of day, he would put the unsold chickens back onto the pole and walk home with them. Once back at the coop, he slid them off the pole again, snipped the string holding their feet together and went into his house. As the story was told, it was said that the chickens would lay there for hours **NOT MOVING AT ALL – because they didn't understand that their owner had set them free!**



Are you free? Do you really know you are? Free from what? Free to what? Free for what? If one is free, surely he knows it. Or does he? And if he knows he is free, does he get up and walk in that freedom?

Consider for a few moments what it means to be free. It means not to be in bondage (chains) or in slavery. It means to be unshackled, liberated. Some of Webster's many definitions of "free" are:

- 1) not obstructed, restricted, or impeded
- 2) not confined
- 3) not mixed with something else

If one doesn't know he or she is free, this implies that she believe himself to be bound to something from which he cannot get free. It also seems to indicate he would then live with a belief that he is forever confined in some measure, fused with (mixed) with something from which he cannot extricate himself.

So what on earth has so many of us bound? I'd like to suggest that it is unbelief. Unbelief in what, you say? Unbelief in a progression of things:

- 1) An initial unbelief in the reality of our being separated from God.
- 2) Unbelief that God could love us and deliver us from the effects of sin in our lives.
- 3) Unbelief, once we come into relationship with God, that *all* of our sins have been overcome by Christ, and that since we are now in Him, we actually *have* victory over our sinful tendencies. And to this we might add a fourth reason for our remaining bound once we come into relationship with Christ.

4) Love for our sin.

Is this really true? I believe so. It would seem that our journey to faith in Christ is indeed that, a journey. Many of us grew up in traditional Christian churches of one stripe or another. Each denomination seems to teach that we can enter into relationship with Christ and become a member of His Body.

Some would say through Baptism.

Some would say by placing our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Some would say by a combination of faith in Jesus and Baptism.

Some would say through repentance.

Some would say through various combinations of the above.

The point I am trying to make is that God the Father sent Jesus to do more than “keep us out of hell.” He sent His Son to not only deliver us from a dead spiritual state which separated us from Him to being alive with Him in a truly real, saving relationship. But Father intends SO MUCH MORE for us.

His purpose is to be glorified by the miraculous transformation of our lives *after* we have entered into relationship with Him! When Jesus died for us, He really did conquer *all* of our sins! He paid the price not only for our sins, but for our sanctification as well! So what should this look like? Let’s let Him speak in His own Words.

Luke 4:18 (Jesus said)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go **free**... *New Revised Standard Version*

John 8:36 (Jesus said)

So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. *New Revised Standard Version*

Acts 13:39

by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. *New Revised Standard Version*

Romans 8:2

For **the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed** you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. *New Living Translation*

Galatians 5:1

So **Christ has really set us free**. Now make sure that you **stay free**, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. *New Living Translation*

1Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, **free** from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. *New Revised Standard Version*

Revelation 1:5

May grace and peace come to you from **Jesus Christ**. What Jesus gives witness to can always be trusted. He was the first to rise from the dead. He rules over the kings of the earth. Give glory and power to the One who loves us! **He has set us free** from our sins by pouring out his blood for us. *New International Reader's Version*

What wondrous news! We were slaves; slaves to sin, separated from God, at enmity with the very One who created us for friendship with Him. And He saved us! He not only saved us, He fully and completely redeemed us and delivered us! From what?

From sin, from death, from sickness, from addictions, from ourselves, from everything that would keep Him from us and us from Him! Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

So why is it that I so often find myself seemingly still conflicted with weaknesses and yes, sin? It can only be for one of two reasons:

Either I really don't believe He has set me free by His Divine Power (this is unbelief) or I love my sin more than I love Him.

So how do I deal when temptation rears its ugly head? Like a victor! What does a victorious warrior do when a worm gets in his way? Why, he simply steps on it and walk right on! And what does a mountain climber do if he gets tripped up and stumbles and falls? He gets right back up, dusts himself off and continues climbing!

Dear one, be **filled** with joy and encouragement in your Lord! Check out the Scriptures as they speak of your being set free (there are some 49 references to this word in the New Testament) and see if you do not get absolutely thrilled at how many times we are told in the New Testament that Christ has set us free. ***And if you are free indeed (or in fact), then get up and walk in it!***

If, after examining your heart and life in light of His Word, you have to admit to yourself and Him that you have been walking as though you were in bondage, then repent. Admit to Him the truth of where and how you have walked, receive His forgiveness and grab hold of the freedom He has poured into you. Then spread out your wings and Fly! You're free!

