

Freedom

What is freedom?

Rom 6:16-18 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (17) But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. (18) And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Freedom is not the ability to do anything you want; there is no such thing.

Everyone is a slave to something, whether to sin or righteousness.

Outside of Christ, people are bound by the power of sin and are unable to choose not to sin.

This may be hard to understand until you remember the Bible definition of sin: "Whatever is not from faith is sin." (Rom 14:23)

Freedom is the ability to choose to practise righteousness.

How does a person become free?

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

The purpose of Christ's coming to earth was to bring freedom to humanity.

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (32) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Living out the Word of God on a daily basis brings freedom.

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit brings freedom.

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Liberty is only accessible to those who walk in obedience to the Lord; the result is not only liberty, but blessing too.

Is it possible to lose your freedom?

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

It is up to us to hold onto the liberty that Christ has bought for us through His blood.

Can freedom be misused?

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Cor 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

1 Pet 2:15-16 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men; (16) as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

God gives His people great freedom, but freedom can be misused and become an avenue for selfishness that brings harm to others.