

Freedom

1. Freedom is a interesting word. Most believe that freedom means to be able to do whatever one wants to do. The biblical concept of freedom is the ability to do what **God wants**. Consider Paul's description of himself in Philippians 1:1, *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ*. Paul saw himself as a servant of Christ—and was willing to do whatever the Lord commanded him. Peter says it this way in 2 Peter 2:19, *They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him*. Has Christ mastered you? If so, you have become his slave!
2. As freedom relates to sin, every believer is free from sin in three different ways. Remember Romans 6:6-7, *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

Freedom from the Penalty of Sin

1. What has every sinner done? (*Psalm 14:3*) _____
2. What is the penalty of sin? (*Romans 6:23*) _____
3. Where will the sinner spend eternity? (*Revelation 20:15*)

4. What has God freely given to the believer? (*Romans 6:23*)

5. Theologians call this act of God on our behalf *justification*. You are no longer under any condemnation for sin. The penalty has been taken for you by Jesus! Read *Romans 8:1-2* and fill in the verse with **your name**:

There is therefore now no condemnation to

*who is in Christ Jesus, who walks not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made me free** from the law of sin and death.*

Freedom from the Power of Sin

1. The process that you are presently in we call *sanctification*. Note it is called a **process**. As you have already noted in your own life, sin is present! The battle with sin will continue until the day you die or Christ returns. Two verses to keep in mind are: Romans 6:14, *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace*, and Romans 8:37, *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us*.

2. Read Romans 6 and answer the following questions:

What do you think Paul means by *dead to sin* in verse 2?

What two things are we to reckon (consider) ourselves to be? (*Romans 6:11*)

To what are we to yield ourselves? (*Romans 6:13*)

Of what are you a servant now? (*Romans 6:18*)

3. To be dead to sin means that we no longer have to be controlled by sin as a power in us. We are free of its power because of what Christ has done on the cross. By faith we are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. We are able to follow God as a choice. This entire concept might seem a little difficult, but it is the core of what it means to be a believer. Simply put, the sinful you was crucified with Christ and now you are free to obey Him in the spirit. Galatians 2:20 states, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me*. The Christ life, as some call it, is an exchange of your old life of sin for His new life of righteousness.

4. Faith activates this truth and brings the theory into reality. Consider this example. You are at work and the Lord speaks to you to witness to a co-worker during break. The old nature in you says, *NO!* It is controlled by fear. But the new man in you says, *Trust Christ, He will give you the words to say!* Immediately you have a crisis. Will you submit to the old man and not witness, or will you listen to the new man and obey? Life is a series of choices!

When you choose to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the new man you are activating faith from within. Faith says, *I trust God. He will give me what I need to say. He will control me. I have nothing to fear. Lord Jesus, live in me now. I surrender to your will*. At that point you begin to witness.

Most people lose the battle over the power of sin in their lives by choosing to believe that the old man is still alive and more powerful than Jesus in them! ***Life goes according to our faith.***

5. Proverbs 28:13 says, *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.* All too often Christians find that the power of sin has not been broken in their lives because of lingering responsibilities of previous sins. Something seems to be dragging behind them. Let's consider the biblical principle of ***restitution.***

Explain the law of restitution found in Numbers 5:5-7.

In Luke 19:8 what does Zacchaeus declare that he will do?

6. Is there anything that you have done or said for which you need to make restitution? Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart. ***Caution:*** restitution is “restoring back” and should be made only to the extent of our sin. Confession and restitution should be as public as the sin. Restitution reverses the effects of sin in us and in others. It brings real freedom.
7. Write down any persons with whom you need to make restitution:

Freedom from the Presence of Sin

1. ***Justification*** is the freedom from the penalty of sin; ***sanctification*** is the freedom from the power of sin; and ***glorification*** is the freedom from the presence of sin. Romans 8:30 states, *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*
2. Read John 14:1-3. Why did Jesus need to go away? _____

With whom will we spend eternity? _____
3. According to Luke 23:43, what did Jesus promise the thief on the cross?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 15. *The entire chapter! It is an excellent summary.*

What kind of body will we have? (15:44) _____

5. Where does 1 Peter 3:22 say that Jesus is now? _____

6. According to Revelation 22:3, what will we be doing in Heaven for all eternity?

7. There will be ***no sin***, no ***sorrow***, no ***pain***, no ***suffering***, no ***battling***, just our God and those who put their trust in Him. The final act of salvation will be our *glorification*. John states in 1 John 3:2, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* We will be like Him! The restrictions of our fallen nature will be gone and we will be free to worship Him forever!
8. Take time to thank the Lord for your freedom. Begin to believe the truth of God's Word. Don't believe the liar—the devil. His goal is to get you to live in bondage. Refuse to be bound by Him. Be free!!