

Freedom

What is Freedom ?

The American Dictionary says : Freedom is the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint.

*Today we hear so much about Freedom.
But are we truly free?*

Galatians 5:1-14 (NIV)

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

⁴ You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

⁵ But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?

⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.

⁹ "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be.

¹¹ Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.

¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 6:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

So Today I want you to hear from God's Word why we have FREEDOM in Christ.

F - Faith

John 14:12 (NIV)

¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

⁷ We live by faith, not by sight.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through **faith**--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

Ephesians 3:12 (NIV)

¹² In him and through **faith** in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

R - Repentance

Luke 5:32 (NIV)

³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**."

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings **repentance** that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

E - Encourage

Acts 9:31 (NIV)

³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and **encouraged** by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Therefore **encourage** one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

¹³ But **encourage** one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

E - Endurance

Romans 15:5 (NIV)

⁵ May the God who gives **endurance** and **encouragement** give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV)

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **endurance** and gentleness.

D - Disciple

Luke 14:26-27 (NIV)

²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my **disciple**.

²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my **disciple**.

Luke 14:33 (NIV)

³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my **disciple**.

So what is a Disciple ? A disciple is a student. In the New testament the disciples followed and learned and did what Jesus taught them. They were willing to leave all behind and follow God's Calling. Are you willing to follow Jesus and leave everything and trust his calling in your life?

O - Obedience

Romans 5:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Romans 6:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Righteousness leads to FREEDOM

2 John 1:6 (NIV)

⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

M - Meek, Meekness

Psalm 37:11 (NIV)

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

Matthew 5:5-9 (NIV)

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

So I end with this text.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.