

What Does Freedom Look Like?

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In these past few weeks, I have asked one simple question to myself but ultimately to the Lord; what does absolute freedom look like? This question came as I was trying to create a painting in tribute to a fallen pop star. I started thinking of artists in all forms that I admire and who have influenced me through my lifetime. As an artist (which I consider myself to be an amateur at best) I want to express the talents as God has given me to the best ability I can.

One of my personal flaws is perfectionism which stems from wanting to be in control. This control does not work well when trying to display the gifts/talents given by God because it acts in direct opposition to the flow of Holy Spirit. So I started asking what does freedom look like? How do I let go so Holy Spirit can fully be in control in everything I do including painting, writing, making music, and even just living? I was shocked when Holy Spirit started to answer this question.

On the onset of someone becoming free it looks and feels like pain, hurt, and anguish. I know that seems confusing and not like freedom at all. I addressed this for days with the Lord. He continued to show me examples and unpack it more for me. Have you ever noticed that whenever you surrender something to the Lord it seems that the hoards of hell are unleashed in your life? For example, when you truly surrender your finances to the Lord because you have been frivolous with it the money goes even quicker even though you are no longer being frivolous with it.

Have you ever noticed that or has that only happened to me? Sometimes it is the enemy trying to keep us under his control, sometimes it is simply the consequences of our previous actions, and sometimes it is the Lord equipping us to trust Him because we surrendered this to Him. Once we repent of our past actions and come to a place of trusting Him and not fearing or worrying about our finances we start to see His hand in this and, voila, financial breakthrough.

Another example He showed me is through the Israelites and their journey in Exodus. There are many examples of what freedom looks like on the onset. When Moses and Aaron first went to Pharaoh there was no release. I imagine Moses felt like he was not hearing God correctly but he pressed through in obedience to God. Remember, every time Pharaoh would say go he would retract it and would not let them go. When he finally let them go he chased them to the point of losing everything because of his control and hardened heart. The people (the Israelites) were content for only a moment as God provided for them each need at the time that need was active. Yet, they would complain and forget what God had done for them previously.

What does freedom look like? At the onset it looks like pain. As the Israelites asked, "What will we eat?", God provided fresh manna that fell like rain so they could eat. They asked for meat because that was what they were used to. God provided quail that fell like rain because He wanted His children to be content.

What does freedom look like? It looks like hurt. When God spoke to all the children of Israel, only a few could bare it. The majority said they did not want to hear the voice of God because they thought they would die at His hand because of the power that came when He spoke. What does freedom look like? It looks like anguish when we are in the waiting period. We are used to having something to do; we are all too used to the multiple distractions of the world. When Moses went up the mountain to receive instruction from God Almighty, the people were not sure what to do.

They were to keep themselves pure/sanctified until Moses returned with the Law. Because they were used to worshipping in the land of Egypt they wanted that same thing and created a golden calf to represent God for worship. This was a great grievance to God Almighty. How many times have we displayed these exact examples once we are set free from something? I say pain, hurt, and anguish are the onset of freedom.

The product of freedom is living beyond any control. No control from the enemy and no control from ourselves. The only control is our obedience to the Lord and our growth in Him. Dieing is a hard thing. None harder than dieing to self. This is why we experience pain, hurt, and anguish at the onset of freedom; because we ARE dieing to self. Our flesh weakens and begins to wilt away as Holy Spirit begins to be in the driver's seat of our entire life. What does freedom look like? Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 - Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

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