

## Ye Shall Be Free Indeed!

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### John 8:31-37 (King James Version)

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. **36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.** 37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

FREEDOM allows you to enjoy personal rights or liberty as an individual who is not in slavery and the additional benefit of having the power to determine your actions without restraint, and in reality, that's a fact...indeed!

The wonderful thing about living in America is that we have options. In many countries around the world, actions are limited. The government controls everything, and the ability to choose is lost. The wonder of the American experience and experiment is the opportunity, at least on paper and in principle, for a person to freely pursue life, liberty and what makes them happy.

But there are also restrictions in a democracy. There are limitations. We do not enjoy freedom without boundaries. We can't just drive through a red light. We can't just shoot through a stop sign. Why are there limits? Because, very simply, in order to enjoy freedom, there must be sufficient restrictions so that freedom is maximized. (*Tony Evans' Book of Illustrations, Stories, Quotes and Anecdotes #330*)

As believers and disciples of Jesus Christ you are no longer in bondage or a slave to sin. You have been set free. You were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and therefore free to serve God. In the book of John chapter 8, verse 31 Jesus did not say to those believers: "You have believed on me, therefore you are saved"; what he said was, "Now that you have believed, if you really want to be my disciples, do what I have commanded." Your real "freedom" as a believer is based on your obedience to the Word of God. I reckon you have seen many believers walking around looking like a dead man, when they are really alive by the Spirit of the Lord, but that Spirit is housed in an earthen vessel and just like the Jews the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when they turn to the Lord, the vail shall be removed.

While listening to a spiritual program on the radio one morning in March 1996 I heard the speaker say "there are so many people living in spiritual bondage." I knew if there is spiritual bondage that there is also spiritual liberty. Spiritual liberty means the freedom to enjoy the things of God and all he represents. The Holy Spirit spoke to me as if he was having a conversation with me. He revealed various areas of my life to me that were holding me captive in spiritual bondage.

You might ask, what is spiritual liberty? In my heart it means freedom to enjoy all the blessings from God the Father; all the benefits of Jesus Christ the Son of the Most High God; and freedom to enjoy the comfort of God through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. You might ask, what do you have to do to receive the blessings of spiritual liberty? **You need to first believe by faith in God and be born again.** Besides that add to your faith, virtue add to that knowledge, add to that temperance, add to that patience, and still add to that godliness, add to that brotherly kindness, and still add to that charity (which is love). This process is a life-long cycle of spiritual growth for all believers. According to scripture, now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

Some areas of religion believe that in order to worship God you have to be humble, quiet and look pious, but members of the apostolic prophetic reformation teaches spiritual liberty: singing and dancing, shouting and praising the Lord out loud, prophetic intercession, lifting up your hands in adoration, singing in the Spirit, praying in a heavenly language, prophetic worship, dwelling in his presence and many other expressions of love for the Lord as evidence of being set free...indeed!