

THE BLESSINGS OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
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What Does It Really Mean To Be Spiritually Free?

1. True spiritual freedom means I have a clear _____.

- + 1 John 1:8, "But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness" (NLT).
- + Jeremiah 31:34, "When you confess your sin to Me, I will forgive and forget your sin" (PAR).
 - The Hebrew words here are words [לֹא זָכַרְתִּי, lo zakar] and it means "not to bring up again; not to throw into the face of."
- + 1 Corinthians 13:5b, "'Love keeps no record of being wronged" (NLT)
- + Micah 7:19, "God will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the deepest parts of the ocean" (PAR).
- + Ephesians 1:7, "For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God" (GNT).
- + Psalms 34:32, "The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned" (NASB).
- + 1 Corinthians 1:8, He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns" (NLT).
- + Romans 6:1-2, "Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?" (NLT).

2. True spiritual freedom means I have direct _____ to God.

- + Ephesians 3:12, "In Him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" (NIV).
- + Hebrews 4:16, "Let us, then, feel free to come before God's throne. Here there is grace. And we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it" (ICB).
- + Psalms 139:1-2, "Lord, You have examined me and know all about me. ²You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them" (NCV).
- + James 4:2b, "You do not have because you do not ask" (NIV).

3. True spiritual freedom means I have the _____ to do what is right.

- Freedom is the power God graciously gives you to say _____ or _____.
- Freedom is the power to do the right thing, the power to do what's good, the power to stop doing self destructive things that you'd like to stop but you can't. If you don't have the power to say no, there's a word for that. It's called an _____.
- + 2 Peter 2:18-19, "They arrogantly use nonsense to seduce people by appealing to their sexual desires, especially to sexual freedom. They seduce people who have just escaped from those who live in error. ¹⁹They promise these people freedom, but they themselves are slaves to corruption. A person is a slave to whatever he gives in to" (GWT).
- + John 8:34, Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (NASB).
- + Romans 7:24, "Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (NLT).
- + John 8:36, Jesus said, "So, if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (NASB).
 - Real spiritual freedom is not simply no limits. Real spiritual freedom is the freedom to _____.
- + Romans 6:6-7, "Our old sinful self was crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We're no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin" (NLT).

4. True spiritual freedom means I can now live with _____ and _____.

- + John 10:10, Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (NASB).
- + 1 Peter 18-20a, "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the

precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began” (NLT).

- See the word “empty?” It is the Greek New Testament word [μάταιος; mataios]. It refers to something “useless, wasteful, thoughtless, purposeless, meaningless, frivolous, vain, and futile.”
- † Romans 12:2b, “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the purpose of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity and freedom” (PAR).
- † Colossians 2:20, “You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world? (NLT).

5. True spiritual freedom means I no longer fear _____ or the _____.

- † Hebrews 2:14-15, “Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son, Jesus Christ, also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying” (NLT).
- † Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (NASB).
- † 1 John 4:4b, “Greater is He who is in you than he (the devil) who is in the world” (NASB).
 - The phrase “in Christ” is used _____ times in the New Testament. Satan can only control areas where I believe his lies over _____.
 - When the devil gives you a thought we call that _____. When God gives you a thought we call that _____.
- † John 8:44, Jesus said, “The devil was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies” (NLT).
- † John 8:32, Jesus said, “And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (NLT).

Three Ways To Benefit From These Spiritual Freedoms

1. Always submit to the _____.

- † 2 Corinthians 3:17, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (NLT).
- † 2 Timothy 2:6, “Jesus gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone” (NLT).

2. Always trust the truth of God’s _____.

- What is so sad to me is that most Christians do not trust God’s word as much as they trust their own _____.
- † John 8:31-32, Jesus said, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (NLT).
- † James 1:25, “But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it” (NLT).

3. Always use my freedom to both _____ and _____ others.

- † Galatians 5:13, “For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love” (NLT).
- † 1 Corinthians 9:19, “Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ” (NLT).

***** **Next Steps Devotional Questions** *****

1. Which of these 5 benefits of spiritual freedom do you need the most right now and why?
2. Of the 3 ways to benefit from these spiritual freedoms, which one should you focus the most on now and why?
3. What is the main lesson the Lord wants you to learn from this today and why?
4. What lies are you most prone to believe from the devil rather than God’s Word? Why?
5. Since real spiritual freedom is the freedom to change, where do you need to change and why?