

Lesson 2

“Set Free”

Before you were saved your spiritual condition was soiled by the pollution of sin. At salvation, your faith in Christ activated a spiritual cleansing by way of the Holy Spirit. Paul described the regeneration of the new birth as a “washing”. *Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the **washing of rebirth** and renewal by the Holy Spirit”*. When you were born again your spirit was given a clean slate by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Just because you are saved does not mean the battle for your freedom is over. Jesus said, when an unclean spirit leaves a person, it seeks to return: “ ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, (if) it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order” “Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first” (Matt. 12:44-45). When you get saved, your spirit is now “swept clean,” free of the dirt and stain of sin. However, if you don’t do a thorough “housecleaning” and let the Holy Spirit “occupy” you, Satan will be able to return attempting to bring you back into the bondage of your old life.

This is why many new Christians do not stay free. They have not completely renounced and removed Satan as an illegal resident in their body, mind, and spirit. They have left him as an occupant in particular areas of their life. Through the power of the cross and the name of Jesus you have power to forcefully evict him!

It is God's desire for us that our whole person (spirit, soul, and body) be **kept** clean and free from the satanic pollution and contaminants of our old life. *1Thessalonians 5:23 “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul** and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

When you were saved, your spirit man was sanctified or set apart for Him. But your continued freedom will depend on the sanctification of your soulish man (which consists of your mind, your will, and your emotions). The continued freedom of your body from the addictions of sin will also depend upon your physical obedience to the word of God.

*Romans 6:12-13 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal **body** so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but*

rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness

Understanding Satan's Strategy:

- 1) Satan is the thief who comes "to steal and kill and destroy". He is after your Freedom (*John 10:10*).
- 2) Satan primarily operates in the realm of our flesh.

- a) He seeks to regain access to your inner man (spirit) through your outer man. He does this because he wants to put you in a spiritually weakened state. This is why Paul prays for the Ephesian believers to be "strengthened with power by the Spirit in their inner being" (*Eph 3:16*).
- b) What is the Flesh? The Flesh is that part of your life that brings you into conflict with the Spirit and the Word (Bible).
 - i) *Galatians 5:17(NAS,)* "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another..."
 - ii) The works of the flesh manifest in all kinds of potential bondages which can bring us back into slavery. Paul describes the results of living in the flesh in verse listed below:

Galatians 5:10-21 (NKJV), "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Note: In short, your spiritual inheritance is the life of freedom in the Spirit. It is the life God intended you to live. Satan seeks to steal your inheritance by enslaving you to sinful bondages of the flesh.

- 3) Satan's three most common weapons used against believers are trauma, trouble and/or temptation.
 - a) *Trauma*: severe emotional shock and pain caused by an extremely upsetting experience.
 - b) *Trouble*: ongoing problems and difficulties resulting in discouragement and despair.
 - c) *Temptation*: a strong desire to do something especially wrong, unbiblical, or unwise.

Understanding how to stand against Satan's strategy:

Ephesians 6:13 "... having done all, stand"

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

1) Receive the truth enthusiastically.

- a) It is the truth that sets you free and keeps you free. Ask yourself, "what does the word of God say about me and this circumstance?"
- b) This is why it is so important for you to become a student of God's word. The Bible is the source of the kind of truth that sets you free and keeps you living in freedom.

2) Trust the truth continually.

- a) Beliefs control behavior. If you believe you will never be able to overcome a besetting sin or lifestyle problem, then you will remain defeated. But if you truly believe that Jesus sets you free from every work of the enemy then your behavior will change and you will find you freedom in Christ.
- b) Every day you must choose to believe the word (truth) of God over every other voice. Every voice that brings you into conflict with the truth must be renounced (turned away from) immediately. A conflicting voice is either the voice of your flesh or the voice of your enemy.
- c) Note: The Spirit of God will never speak something to your mind that brings you into conflict with the truth of God's word.

3) Renew your mind with the truth repeatedly.

- a) *Romans 12:2 "...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*
- b) Renewing your mind is the process of cleansing and changing your thoughts with the word of God. This must become a daily discipline until it becomes second nature.
- c) In every situation of life you must ask yourself, "what does the Bible say about this?"

4) Walk in the truth actively.

"Be doers of God's word (truth) and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22KJV)

"For those who live(walk) according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live (walk) according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5)

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16NKJV)

- a) Every step of obedience you make in this journey activates your faith in the truth of God's word.
- b) Walking in Spirit through faith is how a person maintains their freedom in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in your new life in Christ. You will be amazed at how he speaks direction to your heart.

Receive it – Believe it - Repeat it - Obey it = Freedom in Christ

The CLC Journey Freedom Weekend Retreat

I am so glad that you are taking the time to work through this little booklet. You are making a great start at a new life!

I want to encourage you to do two more things to help establish your personal freedom in Christ. First join a Journey Discipleship Coaching Group as soon as possible. Here you will find a mentor who will help you get established in the faith. Secondly, attend the very next **Freedom Weekend Retreat!**

The Journey Freedom Weekend Retreat is a dramatic experience that can completely change your life. At the Freedom Weekend Retreat you will have a face to face encounter with the cross of Christ and what it means to your life. Through a series of experiences and personal teachings you will learn how to establish your new relationship with God. You can expect true transformation, freedom, and deliverance from past bondages that might still be plaguing you today. You can also expect to have a powerful encounter with the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you are serious about serving Christ at the highest level, you owe to yourself to attend the next Journey Freedom Weekend Retreat.

Pastor Ron