

ARE YOU FREE?



The Search for Freedom



Freedom is something we all highly value. It is a fundamental human need. Many have even willingly sacrificed their lives to fight for their freedom. Unfortunately, each of us are born into the world with a sinful nature which brings bondage in our lives. True freedom starts on the inside with a whole-hearted pursuit of God. Jesus is able to set us free from bondage to sin, so that we are free no matter what takes place externally in our lives. When we seek Him we will find Him and He will release us from captivity. Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son makes you free, you shall be truly free." (from John 8:32-36)

MAIN VERSES

2 Corinthians 3:17(b)

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty!

Jeremiah 29:13,14

You will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart, and I will be found of you, says the Lord, and I will turn away your captivity...

James 4:8

If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us...

Psalms 73:28

It is good for me to draw near to God.

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1-3 (paraphrased)

Jesus proclaims liberty and deliverance to captives, and the opening of prison to those that are bound! He heals the broken-hearted and the bruised (those in pain, hurt, abused, rejected, discouraged).

Isaiah 49:9

"I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out in freedom,' and to those in darkness, 'Come into the light.'"

QUESTIONS

1. What is your heart longing for? Peace? Love? Acceptance?
2. What do you need freedom from? (Fear, bondages, loneliness, hopelessness, addictions, sin, etc.)
3. What is the key to maintaining lasting freedom?
4. How could seeing yourself through the loving eyes of God bring you encouragement in your journey toward freedom?
5. How can you willingly and sincerely seek, and draw near to the Lord?

Personal Application

1. Honestly describe what real, inner freedom means to you.
2. Express to the Lord your desire for his freedom in specific areas of your life.
3. Set aside some time to be alone with God. Ask Him if there are areas of sin in your life where you need to repent.
4. Enjoy your new measure of freedom in Christ!

More Insight

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| + Matthew 6:33 | + Acts 16:24-40 |
| + Hebrews 4:16 | + Romans 3:24 |
| + Proverbs 2:1-9 | + Romans 6:7,22-23 |
| + Proverbs 3:13-15 | + Romans 8:2 |
| + Psalm 51:10-14 | + 1 Peter 2:16 |
| + Isaiah 58:6 | + Isaiah 55:1,6,7 |
| + John 8:31-36 | + Galatians 5:13 |

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True freedom comes from God through the light of God's Word.	2 Corinthians 3:17 Psalm 119:130
Light is precious, and leads to freedom!	John 8:12
True freedom comes from knowing the truth about Jesus. The great news is, we can experience true freedom on the inside, even if we're confined on the outside. There is hope!	John 8:26,32,36 Acts 16:24-40
With God all things are possible!	Luke 1:37 Matthew 9:26 Mark 10:27 Jeremiah 32:17,27
We need to turn to God for help! We can expect Him to answer us when we pray.	Jeremiah 29:13 Hebrews 4:16
It's a heart issue. The condition of our heart before the Lord is very important. The Lord searches the heart. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.	Jeremiah 17:10
The Psalmist prayed, "Search me, O Lord, and know my heart, test me, and know my anxious thoughts, and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (or the way of eternal life)	Psalms 139:23
It is sin and deception that enslaves us. The truth sets us free!	John 8:32,36
Freedom isn't for doing wrong. Instead, it is the empowerment and ability to do the things that please the Lord.	Romans 8:2 Romans 1:16 1 Corinthians 15:57
Only Jesus can truly set us free, and satisfy our hearts' cry for freedom. We are created with a special place in our heart that only God can fill. There is an empty void inside that cannot be satisfied with anything else.	Galatians 5:1 Acts 4:12
A whole-hearted search for God leads to freedom.	

CONCLUSION: A whole-hearted pursuit of God with a sincere heart is important. (You can't fool God!) The search for freedom can be satisfied by finding Jesus, because true freedom comes from knowing the truth about Jesus. In His presence we find freedom, hope and fullness of joy!

PRAYER

Father in Heaven, I am willing to sincerely seek You with all of my heart. I want to pursue You, and Your ways of truth. I want to experience true freedom. Thank You for hearing and answering this prayer.

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

(A prophetic Word from God)

I will say to the prisoners, "Come out in freedom," and to those in darkness, "Come into the light."

Isaiah 49:9 (NLT)

More Insight Verses

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Proverbs 2:1-9 - My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

Proverbs 3:13-15 - Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

Psalms 51:10-14 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

Isaiah 58:6 - "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?"

John 8:31-36 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

NOTES:



More Insight Verses

Acts 16:24-40 - ...But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed...

Romans 3:24 - ...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:7,22-23 - For he who has died has been freed from sin. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

1 Peter 2:16 - ...free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

Isaiah 55:1,6,7 - "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Galatians 5:13 - For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.