

“Freedom Found”

John 8:36

Introduction:

1. A sad fact of life is that we live in a world of strife, conflict, and struggle.
2. There are many people in the world that are caught in a life of struggle and bondage.
 - Bondage to drugs, alcohol, nicotine, pornography, food, and the list goes on.
3. In fact, there are not many families around that don't struggle with one or more of these issues in one form or another.
4. Here are a few statistics:
 - It is estimated that over 3 million teens (14 - 17) in the United States are alcoholics.
 - Alcohol is a factor in nearly half of America's murders, suicides, and accidental deaths.
 - 1 out of 3 families in America reported that alcohol has caused trouble in their families.
 - And this is just alcohol.
5. The only hope you have from these struggles is to find freedom from them.
6. There are many “sources” of freedom out there, but even if they physically remove you from the struggle, it still leaves you searching to fill the void in your life.
7. Stories abound of people staying away from drugs and alcohol for years only to find themselves a slave to that bondage again.
8. There is a source of freedom though that knows no boundaries, and not only will free you from the outward, physical struggle, but will free you from the inner, personal struggle.
9. If you desire true, lasting freedom from the strongholds in your life, then you must find a source of freedom that is true and lasting.
10. We will look at two key principles that show why Jesus Christ is the source of true and lasting freedom.

Why is Jesus Christ the true source of freedom?

Because Jesus Christ is the ONLY source of true freedom.

1. In the verses leading up to John 8:36, Jesus is speaking to the people of Israel. He encourages them to continue in His words, and as a result, they will know the truth, and the truth shall set them free.
2. They then try to say that they are not in any kind of bondage, so why do they need freedom?
3. Jesus then makes an interesting statement in verse 34. He mentions that the person that commits a sin is a *“servant of sin.”*
4. According to what Jesus said, if you make a decision to follow after sin, you will be a slave to sin, and according to the Bible everyone is a sinner.
 - *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” - Romans 3:23*
5. The Bible makes it very clear that everyone is a sinner, and what you need to be concerned with is the result of sin. What is the result of sin?
 - *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned.**” Romans 5:12*
 - *“For the wages of sin is **death...**” - Romans 6:23a*
6. There is only one final outcome for a person that is still in his sins, and that outcome is death. Sounds pretty bleak doesn't it? Makes you wonder if there really is any real, true freedom from the strongholds of life.
7. Look at John 8:36 again and see what it says about freedom. Jesus is speaking here about himself, and He states that when He makes you free, you won't just be free, you will be free indeed.
8. So how does Jesus Christ make you free? The phrase *“make you free”* means “to liberate.”
9. You are liberated through Jesus Christ by simply trusting in Him by faith.
 - *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6, 8*

10. He paid the penalty for your sins on the cross, and then He rose from the dead, defeating death.
11. What is important for you to grasp about finding freedom is that there is nothing you can do to earn it or work for it.
12. When Jesus Christ conquered death and sin on the cross it was a “done deal,” He did it all for you. All you have to do is simply accept the gift that He is giving you through His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* **Romans 6:23**
13. Accepting the gift of God by placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ is the greatest decision you can make in your struggle with addiction.
14. When you do, you will not just find a temporary, outward freedom, but a true and eternal freedom.

Because freedom in Christ is a secure freedom.

1. In John 8:36 Jesus Christ makes two great statements. The first states that it is in Him where freedom is really found, and the second is when you become free in Christ you are *“free indeed.”*
2. The word “indeed” means “really,” and is also translated “certainly, of a truth, verily.” According to Webster, it means “without question, undeniably.”
3. In other words, in Jesus Christ you never have to wonder whether you are truly free or not. You are free the moment you trust in Him.
4. So you may be thinking, if you have accepted Christ as your Savior, why do you still struggle with your stronghold?
5. The reason is because you still live in a sin-cursed world and are still in the flesh. What does that have to do with it? Look at the following verse:
 - *“For I know that in me (that is, **in my flesh,**) **dwelleth no good thing:** for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”*
Romans 7:18
6. You are still in the flesh, but it no longer defines who you are. **Ephesians 2:3-6**

7. Another great principle to grasp is that when you are free in Christ it is a freedom that is totally secure, and cannot be taken away from you. You can trust your freedom in Christ and never have to doubt your position in Him. **Romans 8:35-39**
8. In Christ, you are more than a conqueror, and there is nothing that can separate you from His love.
9. You may still be living in the flesh, but the power of the flesh no longer has to rule in your life. Jesus Christ conquered that bondage, and as a result you are made more than a conqueror.
10. Jesus Christ will give you the strength to make it through the struggles that come your way.
 - *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”* **Colossians 1:13**
 - *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*
Philippians 4:13

Conclusion:

1. Your struggle with the strongholds in your life can seem overwhelming.
2. They don't have to define who you are, and they don't have to control your life anymore.
3. Jesus Christ is the true source of freedom, and when you place your trust in Him, He alone liberates you from the power that sin and bondage have on your life.
4. When you take this step though, it doesn't mean your troubles are whisked away for good. You still live in a sin-cursed world, with other sin-filled people.
5. It then becomes important to spend time with the Lord in prayer each day, to spend time reading and studying God's Word, but also to get in fellowship with other believers that can help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.