

Eternal Living Starts Now

In John 8:31-32, Jesus said, *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."*

One reason I quote this verse so often is because it characterizes God's will for you. God's will is that you be set free.

But, set free from what?

First of all, God wants, of course, for you to have eternal, everlasting life. That's why He sent Jesus to earth to live and die in the first place. *John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

But everlasting life doesn't mean just living forever. You will live forever anyway, whether you believe in Jesus or not.

The question is where will you live?

Will you live forever in His presence, in the glory of heaven, or will you live for all eternity separated from Him and His love?

One way is eternal life. The other way is eternal death.

God sent His Son, Jesus, **to set us free from eternal death** and those of us who believe in Him have the assurance of everlasting life.

However, when Jesus said that we would know the truth and be set free, He wasn't just talking about being set free from eternal death.

He was **also talking about being set free from the bondages that are here, now, on earth.**

Many Christians live their entire lives under the bondages of sickness, poverty, and the letter of the law. When Jesus came to set us free, **He came to set us free completely.**

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

What is the law of sin and death?

Gal.5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, (vulgarity, profane, blaspheme)

5:20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contention (strife, arguments), jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissension, (discords conflicts) heresies,

5:21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelry (celebrating and sacrificing to false gods,) and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God

And in John 10:10, *Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

What is this abundant life Christ wants us to be set free to live? Read Gals. 5:22-23

If this is true, then why are so many Christians still under bondage? Why are they not set free?

Well, here's the answer. God said in His Word, over and over again, that it is faith that causes His promises to take effect. In other words, when God promises something in His Word, we must believe that what He promised is the truth and that it will come to pass.

But, we must not just believe that it can come to pass in someone else's life, but we must believe that it will come to pass in our own life.

Why?

Because God said it would, and we believe God.

When ?

God's promise gets from your head to your heart, faith is born.

Matt. 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Jesus came to set us free from everything that binds us.
We can be set free, but first we must believe we will be set free.

In the town of Nazareth, Jesus taught the good news of the kingdom; but unlike the other villages who received His teachings, Nazareth did not. Because they didn't believe the words of Jesus, Jesus could not do any great miracles there. *Mark 6:5-6 says, "Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief."*

We must not be like the people of Nazareth. Only when we believe God's Word completely will we receive the fullness of abundant life.

God's will is for you to be set free, not just in eternity, but today. Now.

Faith and Fear Are Opposites

Second Timothy 1:7 says, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* This verse gives us a very basic principle of faith. Fear is a spirit and it is not sent from God.

Fear is used by the enemy to paralyze, immobilize, and render our faith useless.
Terror, bad reports, and all negative words are for the purpose of developing fear.
Fear will break you down physically, mentally, and spiritually.

The enemy wants to destroy as many Christians as possible. Even though he cannot steal their salvation, he can render them ineffective on this earth if he can only get them into fear.

Fear and faith are opposites. In an airplane, there is a gauge that gives the rate of ascent and the rate of descent. The reason there are not two gauges is because you cannot be doing both at the same time. The plane is either climbing to a higher altitude or descending to a lower altitude. It's the same way with our faith. We are either facing faith with our backs turned to fear, or we are facing fear with our backs turned to faith.

Job was a great man of God. Job 1:1 says that he was blameless and upright and that he feared God and shunned evil. Later, however, after he had many trials come against him, he made an interesting statement. In Job 3:25 he said, *"The thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me."*

Do not respond to the spirit of fear. When you hear words of terror and disaster, do not fear. Remember 91 which speaks of the safety abiding in the Presence of God :*Psalm 91:7. **Speak it and let it become rhema in your heart.** "A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you."* (Psalm 91:7)