

## THE NATURE OF TRUE FREEDOM

(The Cross in my Life is the Pathway to Freedom)

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1. We may define “**freedom**” as the release from the influences of sin, Satan and this evil world system. It is the release into a walk in God’s Spirit, the rest of God, the peace of God and a walk of obedience to God’s will. *Jn 8:31-36, Col 1:13,14, Gal 6:14, 2Cor 3:17, Gal 5:16,17, Phil 4:6,7, Gal 5:1,13.*
2. Jesus Christ is our example of true, complete **Freedom**.  
He lived in **freedom** from all sin, *Heb 4:15*.  
He freely spoke the **truth**, *Lk 4:18-30*.  
He was **free** from fear, *Mat 8:25,26*.  
He had **freedom** from Satan’s influences, *Jn 14:30, Mat 4:3-11*.  
He walked in **freedom** from what others thought, *Lk 19:5-8*.  
He knew He was **free** from the power of death, *Mat 16:21*.  
He was **free** from the power of evil men, *Mat 26:53*.  
In His life He was **free** from sickness and disease, poverty and at times, gravity, *Mat 14:26*.
3. Jesus was able to say, “If the Son shall set you free you shall be free indeed,” because He walked in freedom and came to make a way of **freedom** for us, *Jn 8:36, Lk 4:18,19*.
4. His freedom was not a freedom of “doing your own thing”, or of “pleasing self”. His freedom was the **FREEDOM** of walking in obedience to the will of the Father, *Jn 6:38, Jn 5:19,30*.

A created object or being is brought into existence for a purpose. It may be a car, screw-driver, sock or a pencil. The purpose of man is given in *Gen 1:26-28*. It was to supervise and maintain the newly created earth on behalf of God. A created being does not have self existence, independence, self sufficiency and self determination as the uncreated Creator has, but is dependent upon the Creator for continued life and purpose.

When a created being tries to assume the attributes of the uncreated Creator, he becomes locked in bondage, failure and chaos, and fails to fulfil the purpose for which he was created. (The temptation of *Gen 3:4,5* was to assume the attributes of God.) If I purchase a motormower it comes with the manufacturer’s manual of operation. While the instructions for running are followed, the mower runs smoothly and functions without problems. If I disregard the manual and decide to change to a different spark plug, an alternative fuel mixture, etc, the freedom of operation will be lost and the mower will stop functioning as it was intended. It becomes a piece of useless junk. The only way a created being can live in freedom from bondage, failure and chaos, and from failure to fulfil its intended purpose, is to continue to live by the rules and laws given by the Creator for its operation.

For a created being, freedom is only possible within the laws of the Creator. The only true “freedom” that exists in the universe is as the result of walking in obedience to the will and law of God. *Ps 1:1-3* tells us that as we delight and meditate in God’s laws we will be blessed with freedom from drought, fruitlessness, withered leaves and lack of prosperity.

5. Jesus walked in total freedom because He walked in total obedience to the will of the Father, *Jn 8:29b*.
6. Christ gives us freedom from everything that would stop us obeying and pleasing the Father, *2Cor 5:9, Gal 5:1, Jn 8:36*.
7. As believers in Jesus Christ we are free to do what we want to do, which is to walk in the way and will of God, *Heb 8:10-12, Ps 40:8, Rom 7:22*.
8. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, one of the greatest symbols of true freedom this century, said, "A healthy society has two lungs. One is freedom of speech and the other is respect for the law."
9. As you drive home from the service tonight, realise that the only reason you have freedom and safety on the roads, is because all the vehicles you pass are controlled by the traffic law. Without obedience to that law, chaos and destruction would result.
10. In *Jn 8:34* Jesus said, "Whoever commits sin (i.e. acts outside God's law) is the slave of sin." Before we came to Christ we were slaves to sin, *Rom 6:17* and without freedom.
11. But when we surrender our life to Christ we come into freedom so that we can live as a son or daughter of God, *2Cor 6:18*. Walking in obedience to God's will, by the Spirit's power, is walking in glorious freedom, *Rom 8:2, Jn 8:31,32, 2Cor 3:17*.
12. Our freedom in Christ is from:
  - a. lies and untruth and into the truth of God's Word, *Jn 8:32*.
  - b. the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of God's dear Son, *Col 1:13*.
  - c. the guilt of sin into the freedom of forgiveness, *1Jn 1:9*.
  - d. the bondage and power of sin so we can be alive unto God through our Lord Jesus Christ, *Rom 6:11*.
  - e. the legal bondage of the law where we are striving to obtain righteousness with God, by keeping a set of rules, into justification by faith and the liberty of the Spirit, *Gal 2:16, Gal 5:1,16,17, Eph 2:14-18*.
  - f. the control of man through fear, into the freedom of knowing and walking in God's ways, *Pro 29:25, Ps 124:7*.
  - g. the control of material things into the freedom of knowing the Lord as our Provider, *1Tim 6:6, Phil 4:19*.