

Spiritual Freedom
(Rev. Anthony Menzel, July 4, 2021)

It's a blessing to live in a democratic country with many opportunities, but no matter where you live or what your circumstances are, you can be free...

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

This verse is a confirmation that the Holy Spirit, in addition to the Father and Jesus Christ, is God...

It also indicates that our spiritual freedom is not determined by our circumstances; our spiritual freedom is determined by the Presence of the Holy Spirit...

At the same time, you can live in what is called a free society and be a slave, not just due to illegal human trafficking but also due to the fact that we are slaves of any sin that we habitually do.

Romans 6:12-23

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. **13** And do not present your members *as* [d]instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. **14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

From Slaves of Sin to Slaves of God

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! **16** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? **17** But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were [e]delivered. **18** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness [f]for holiness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. **22** But now having been set free

from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit [g]to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. **23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the [h]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have to learn to invest in our future...

One of the most important investments is to live for eternal gain instead of temporary comfort or pleasure...

Hebrews 12:14-29

14 Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **15** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; **16** lest there *be* any fornicator or [f]profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. **17** For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

The Glorious Company

18 For you have not come [g]to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and [h]darkness and tempest, **19** and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. **20** (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned [i]or shot with an arrow.” **21** And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”)

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, **23** to the [j]general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel.

Hear the Heavenly Voice

25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, **26** whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I [k]shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” **27** Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we [l]may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **29** For our God *is* a consuming fire.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may [i]obtain *it*. **25** And everyone who competes *for the prize* [j]is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. **26** Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. **27** But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Discipline is very important, especially spiritual discipline...

Today I want to focus on deliverance, but perhaps not in the way deliverance is thought of in some Christian circles...

The truth is that we should be involved in deliverance daily...

1 Corinthians 15:31

31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

We should be getting closer to the Lord Jesus each day...

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as [b]by the Spirit of the Lord.

We should be becoming stronger and stronger Christians...

Every day without anyone laying hands on us, in our private time of prayer and Bible study, we should be allowing the Lord Jesus to deliver us from sin...

This sin includes worry and anxiety...

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This sin includes every form of idolatry, which can be defined as putting other things as more important than God...

There is, of course, a place for traditional deliverance, including the laying on of hands and casting out demons that are oppressing us...

However, it is very empowering to get to the place where you actually do not need a lot of this traditional deliverance because you are constantly repenting before the Lord Jesus with a sincere heart...

Daily deliverance is for everyone...

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

10 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, **2** all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, **3** all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. **5** But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. **7** And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." **8** Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; **9** nor let us [a]tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; **10** nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **11** Now [b]all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our [c]admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to [d]bear *it*.

Flee from Idolatry

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

The past several weeks I have mentioned verse 12 of 1 Corinthians 10...

But I feel it's important to mention more of this chapter because it shows different areas in which we need to be careful spiritually...

One of these areas is complaining...

***Daily deliverance subsequently involves being thankful...

Romans 1:18-26, 28-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who [d]suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because what may be known of God is [e]manifest [f]in them, for God has shown *it* to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and [g]Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **23** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like [h]corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their [i]women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **27** Likewise also the [j]men, leaving the natural use of the [k]woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, [l]sexual immorality, wickedness, [m]covetousness, [n]maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** [o]undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, [p]unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

***Daily deliverance involves repenting of thoughts and feelings, as well as actions and words...

Matthew 5:21-22, 27-30

21 “You have heard that it was said to those [d]of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ **22** But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother [e]without a cause shall be in danger of the

judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’[f] shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, [g]‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of [h]hell fire. **23** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, **24** leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **25** Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **26** Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Adultery in the Heart

27 “You have heard that it was said [i]to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28** But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to [j]sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. **30** And if your right hand causes you to [k]sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

***Daily deliverance means that you continually admit your shortcomings with humility and ask God to change you and take any steps necessary to change...

1 Peter 5:6-7

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **7** casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

The benefits of personal daily deliverance are great:

For example, attaining more and more spiritual freedom means that we will have more and more peace...

Isaiah 26:3-4

You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You.

4

Trust in the Lord forever,
For in Yah, the Lord, *is* [b]everlasting strength.

Attaining more spiritual freedom means that you will be able to help other people better...

You won't have to focus on yourself so much...

Luke 8:26-32, 38-39

26 Then they sailed to the country of the [k]Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. **27** And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons [l]for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" **29** For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. **31** And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. **33** Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

34 When those who fed *them* saw what had happened, they fled and told *it* in the city and in the country. **35** Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. **36** They also who had seen *it* told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was [m]healed. **37** Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the [n]Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

38 Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, **39** "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

This is an extreme example, and it shows that when we gain spiritual freedom, we are able to minister to other people more effectively...