

“Are You Truly Free?”

Written April of 2016

Scripture Reading: John 8:31, 32

Introduction

First and foremost let me start out by saying that I feel that the Holy Spirit gave me this Message so that I could personally grow and get into alignment with Gods' Purpose. Past few years have been filled with trails, tribulations and more funerals of loved ones that I cared to attend. At that start of this year I declared 2016 to be the year of Supernatural Favor. God began by taking me deeper into His Ultimate Intention.

Recently a song came out by Casting Crowns called “**Just be Held**”, I believe that this song really sets the tone for this Message today.

(Play Song/Video clip)

How many of you caught that very first lyric that says: “**when you're tired of fighting, chained by your control, there's FREEDOM IN SURRENDER lay it down and let it go**”

Let us pray and invite the Holy Spirit to open our understanding and allow us to see Gods' Purpose and Ultimate Intention in our lives.

Sermon

I would like to take a quick poll/survey and see what you all think TRUTH is. Some people believe their denomination has the Truth, some believe Jesus' Blood on the Cross is truth, what is something that you believe is true etc.

Today we will dive deep into the Gospel of John to get a deeper meaning on the word “Truth”. Let's turn in our Bibles to a familiar text **John 14:6: “I am the way, the TRUTH and the life”**. This text is referring to Jesus, however here's my question how is it that that Truth Sets us Free?

Turn to **John 17:17: “Sanctify them through thy Truth, thy Word is Truth”**. I want to quickly define the word Sanctify so that we can better understand what this text is conveying to us and more importantly what God the Father was trying to convey to us.

- **Sanctify** = make holy, set apart or divinely special.

This text is stating or implying that the WORD will create this Sanctification. In **John 1:1-5** we get a clearer picture of who is the WORD that sanctifies us or leads us to that Sanctification. If you said Jesus is the living Word, then you are 100% correct.

The Gospel of John has always been one of my favorite Gospels because I believe that the Apostle John had a deeper understanding of what it meant to be FREE. In my opinion and from what I have personally seen: the further away you have been from God prior to your conversion or accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, the deeper and more profound your conversion is.

Let's think about this for a moment who was John prior to his conversion? Prior to Jesus setting him FREE, who was John? I think **Luke 9:51-54** sums it up.

Verse 54: "When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?"

Safe to say that John and his brother James had a bit of a BAD TEMPER. Now you get a nickname like: **"Sons of Thunder"**, is pretty bad but I think a Spanish temper, Italian temper or Irish temper pale in comparison...lol Just kidding!

However, because of this, in the Gospel of John you see a deeper level of the Holy Spirit and most importantly of the Love of God conveyed because the conversion of John was so deep and profound. After all John became known as the Disciple that Jesus' loved, in the paintings depicting the Last Supper there is John next to Jesus on his bosom (chest). It was John whom Jesus charged with the care of His mother Mary while he hung on the Cross. Oh yes, John was SET FREE!!!

Let me illustrate this in a different way. Who will have a greater appreciation or value of their FREEDOM? Someone who was in jail for 20 years and was suddenly pardoned and let go? Or someone who was never imprisoned yet still receives a pardon? **Body of Christ think about this real hard and real deep!!! This is the focal point of today's Message!!**

Why are so many churches today cold and lacking the Fire of the Holy Spirit?

Simple: Most professed Christians do not value the Debt that was paid on the Cross, mainly because they don't realize they are captive or imprisoned. Most Christians live their lives as if Christ is still in the grave. They fail to live their lives realizing that (3) days later Christ arose from the grave a Victorious, Glorious Conqueror. We fail to realize that it was the Holy Spirit that raised Him from the grave and re-established the Kingdom of Grace so that all of us could have access to God again.

Most people come to church out of tradition; because mom, dad or grandma went, so I should go. Sadly, they never captivate the depth and meaning of the phrase: **"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"!**

There a lot of people that say that is was so much easier for the Disciples to trust and believe in Jesus because He was with them Guiding, Teaching and Showing them the Will of the Father. However, God in His infinite Wisdom made a provision for us in **John 14:16** Jesus said that He would **"send another Comforter/Helper"**.

Notice the key word **"ANOTHER"**; what does this word imply? It means that Jesus when he was with the Disciples was their Comforter and that He was going to send another Comforter to pick up where he left off in His place.

Christ will always be with us through the Holy Spirit as it states in **Matthew 29:20**. It is the Holy Spirit who Sanctifies us through the Born Again experience so that TRUTH can live and dwell in us. **John 3:3-7** clearly tell us: **THAT IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE KINGDOM YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**

It's the two-part equation found in **Verse 5** of being "**born of water and of Spirit**" that is the key to understanding and valuing the FREEDOM we have IN Christ Jesus!

Through the Born Again experience "**We renew our minds**" as it tells us in **Romans 12:2**. But Paul also tells in **Romans 12:2** NOT to "**pattern yourselves by the things of this world**", he was referring to Religion, Tradition, Human rites and Rituals. These are all things that have blinded us to see the CAPTIVITY THAT WE ARE IN!!!

It's the Holy Spirit that makes the Blood of Christ effective in our lives. Through the Born Again Experience we will walk in the POWER & AUTHORITY of God. I believe that RELIGION has caused us to lose sight of Gods' Ultimate Intention. Here is an illustration to help you understand this a bit clearer. **(Use a dry-erase board to draw)**

There was once King who wanted his heirs/children to reign in a Kingdom that he built himself. So, this King gathered his son & daughter and put them on a road on their way to this Kingdom. He told them to keep driving straight so that they would reach this awesome Kingdom that he had built for them and so that they could reign in the same Power and Authority HE has. You see whatever the King spoke, became law. The King wanted to give them this Kingdom as an expression of his love for them.

*Well along the way they took a wrong turn down a path that seemed easier, and disobeyed what their father had said. In essence broke his law. They ended up getting lost on this path which eventually led them to be hanging off of a cliff about to fall to their impending death. However, someone came along and not only saved them, but pointed them back on the road that would lead back to the main road. **Man, imagine the relief and joy they felt that they didn't die?***

When this son and daughter of the King finally got back to the main road and they stayed right there; and told everyone of what had happened to them and how someone came to save them. So great was their appreciation for this stranger saving them that they stayed there for days, then weeks, then years and eventually their whole lifetime and generations afterwards telling everyone of that dangerous path that seemed easier, but almost led to their death and how that stranger came and saved their lives.

What do you think of that? Would you have done the same thing; would you be so grateful that someone saved your life? That is something that all of us would agree to, as YES. However, I want you to see past the surface of this story and notice something very important.

This son and daughter of the King made their dangerous DETOUR, BY TURNING ONTO THE WRONG PATH/ROAD WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY ALSO DETOURED THEIR ENTIRE PURPOSE.

So much so, that they spent the rest of their lives proclaiming the good news to everyone they saw of how this amazing stranger saved their lives and they decided to WARN everyone passing by to be careful of not taking that dangerous path/road that leads to death.

I want to ask you this question, and think about it real hard PLEASE. **What was the Fathers Ultimate Intention and Purpose of sending His son and daughter on that journey?** If you remember correctly it was so they could inherit the Kingdom he had built for them. So how is it that the Purpose of His Children got redirected? Here's how they focused on the circumstances of their Physical reality and that became their Purpose and focal point of their lives.

My dear friends Gods' Ultimate Intention for us was not to stay on the side of the main road and not continue to Inherit the Kingdom that the Blood of His Son Jesus Christ purchased for us. When Christ was raised on the THIRD day he re-established this Kingdom to us. **He gave us access again to that Inheritance and that is the TRUE GOOD NEWS!!!**

In the Old Testament Isaiah prophesied what this Gospel of the Kingdom would bring us. Let's turn in our Bibles to **Isaiah 61:1: "Proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."**

What kind of Fruits is the Gospel or the Truth that you have put your Faith into, Producing in your lives? Has that TRUTH that you believe, set you FREE? Reflect on that for a second...may the Holy Spirit open your eyes to Gods' Truth.

There are mix of different people here today some "Christian", some on the fence, some that have never been to church and some that just came out of curiosity. Ask yourself this question: **WHAT KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT?**

I believe many of you have chains upon you that Religion can't even begin to help you break free from. Are you worried about finances, your kids, your marriage, secret vices and secret sins keeping you up at night? Are there people here that hide behind denominational books and wear them as a badge of honor. Oh yes, there are chains here my dear Brothers and Sisters, thus saith the Lord.

I think we have all experienced these things in one way or another. But here's the point of today's Message. **These CHAINS will NEVER cease or go away through Religion!!! It's ONLY through the Kingdom, and only through Christ in us, the HOPE OF GLORY.**

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THESE THINGS THEN THE TRUTH THAT YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN, HAS NOT SET YOU FREE!!!! Could it be the Gospel or Truth you have believed in only leaves you on the side of the Main Road talking about how to eat better, being vegetarian, a day of worship, religious traditions, customs and man-made doctrines.

Those things WILL NOT get you to Gods Ultimate Purpose and Destination for your life. They are only things that can take your focus away from Gods Ultimate Intention. Getting side tracked with religious activity is not the sole purpose of Gods Plan of Salvation.

The Fruits we produce give evidence to the seed that was planted. Turn to our final text today found in: **Mark 16:15-18**. We will read text by text, of the FRUITS THAT THE TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL PRODUCE.

My dear Brothers and Sisters the TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM produces Fruits that have the seeds of POWER & AUTHORITY. True Freedom is living with a Kingdom Mindset knowing that God has given us access to His Glory!

Altar Call

Who is tired of the chains you are living with? Here is an actual chain that I brought with me to today that symbolizes the spiritual chains that have imprisoned you for far too long. I have come in the name Jesus, who has sent me to proclaim liberty from those CHAINS.

For the closing song, we will play one the most beloved hymns of all time and my all-time favorite. The story behind this song is based on the Slave trade in the 1700's. John Newton understood what being free was all about as well. But because of Gods' Amazing Grace, we to can declare and proclaim that Freedom IN Christ Jesus.

As the song plays if you would like to declare your INHERITANCE today as a Child of the Most High God and Truly be Free I invite you to come forward for the closing prayer.

AMEN!!!!