| are you free  3rd January 2019  Cynthia’s word - where there is unity God commands a blessing  new song I would like us to learn  <https://youtu.be/qVRN4ypvsJ4> **John 8:36**New International Version (NIV) **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.  Who’s the son?? Jesus of course.  **Freedom** stands for something greater than just the **right to act** **however I choose. ….**let’s take a peek at that**?**  Take your mind back to when you left home as a teenager. Some insight for those young people who haven’t left home yet.  You have to have a job, earn money, you had to pay rent. that’s after you found somewhere to live. You had to pay the bills…. Power, gas. Food, clothes, Whats that like… mmm do you still feel FREE? Is that freedom? I’m sure prior to the event, you had a feeling, that that was going to be your freedom… leaving home…. But with that came … responsibility.  Remember Janis Joplin? She sang in at woodstock ‘Me & Bobby M’gee, that ‘freedoms just another word , for nothing else to loose’? ………Is it? In the end she could not find freedom and ended her own life. Very sad, another loss of another great musso.  And the reality is…… does she now have freedom? Even in death?  The world thinks that freedom is ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness’ …. But Is it?  The world is full of suggestions of freedom.  Some think that freedom is a "**spiritual**." Experience. That FEELS GOOD.  \*To New Agers, believe they have freedom in their **inner god**.  \*To Naturalists, it has a freedom in **worshipping nature. ...**  To most of **us,** (Christians) **freedom** means much more than just **'free to do whatever you want'.**  As **Spirit Filled Born again** believers, We need to understand freedom in a way that will have **meaning** to us, because we as **Kingdom dwellers,** as in “in the world, but NOT of the world need to know what it really **means**.  How about this Quote?  C:\Users\steph\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\48E7F6A9.tmp |
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**spiritual freedom** refers to **a state where a person is socially** **and spiritually free**, allowing one to prosper both **materially** **and spiritually**. For such a person, there remains salvation in

**this world and in the Hereafter.**

**Freedom in Christ - What is it? How can we experience true freedom in Christ?**

**Freedom** is a **basic human desire**, so we would expect to read about it in the Bible.

While the Bible speaks often of freedom, its focus is most frequently related to the **spiritual freedom** **a person can experience in Christ.**

**Freedom in Christ** is seen in contrast to the **bondage of** **sin**.

**Romans 6:20-23** New International Version (NIV)

**20**When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

**21**What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

**22**But, now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

**23**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6%3A20-23&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28092a)] Christ Jesus our Lord.

Of course we are talking about disobedience here. That is basically what sin is.

**Freedom** in Christ, is seen as the **only true form of freedom**, because it provides lasting freedom beyond this life.

[**John 8:36**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.36)

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

[**John 8:32**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.32)**.**

**32**and you will *[d](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.32" \l "footnote1)*know the truth, and the truth *[e](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%208.32" \l "footnote2)*will set you free.”

a person who has experienced **true freedom in Christ** is called to live as **His servant**.

The apostle Paul was an example of this, as many of his letters began with the introduction of himself as a **"servant of Christ Jesus"**

**Romans 1:1** New International Version (NIV)

IPaul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

We are set free to **serve Christ**.

This seems like a paradox to the non-believer, yet the freedom found in Christ gives the believer ……….. a *desire* to live for Christ as ….. **a servant**. In other words… do His work… Remember ‘The great commission’……… Go **OUT** unto **ALL** the earth.

# Matthew 28:16-20 New International Version (NIV)

The Great Commission

**16**Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

**17**When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

**18**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In doing this we **SERVE** in bringing more souls into the **Kingdom of God**. ‘

And don’t forget where that is (Tap Heart)

The **servant** attitude reflects the attitude displayed by Jesus Himself during His time on earth

[**John 13:1-20**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2013.1-20)**;**

John 13:1-20 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet

**13**It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**2**The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

**3**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

**4**so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

**5**After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**6**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

**7**Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

**8**“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

**9**“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

**10**Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”

**11**For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

**12**When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.

**13**“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

**14**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

**15**I have set you **an example** that you should do as I have done for you.

**16**Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

**17**Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

# And again in

# **Philippians 2:5-11** New International Version (NIV)

**5**In your relationships with one another, have the **same mindset** as **Christ Jesus**:

**6**Who, being in **very nature**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A5-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] **God,**    did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
**7**rather, he made himself **nothing**  
    by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A5-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a **servant**,  
    being made in **human likeness**.  
**8**And being found in appearance as **a man**,  
    he **humbled** himself  
    by becoming **obedient to death**—  
        even death on a cross!

**9**Therefore **God exalted him to the highest place**  
    and gave him the name that **is above every name**,  
**10**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
**11**and every tongue acknowledge that **Jesus Christ is Lord,**    **to the glory of God the Father**.

those who find freedom in Christ also become His children.

[**John 1:12**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.12) teaches,

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

**Also as in** [**Galatians 4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%204)

We are **now children and heirs of the inheritance of eternal life with Christ for eternity.**don’t forget this stuff people.

Take note … **freedom** does not mean sin is completely removed.

Paul spoke of his ongoing struggle with sin

**Romans 7:15-20** New International Version (NIV)

**15**I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

**16**And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

**17**As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

**18**For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+7%3A15-20&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28110a)] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

**19**For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

**20**Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

I’ll read that again slowly. Listen carefully

Paul also noted that sin no longer controlled him

**Romans 6:1-2** New International Version (NIV)

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

**6**What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

**2**By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

He was now a person who sought to live a transformed life because of his new life in Christ

# **Romans 12:1-2** New International Version (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice

**12**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**2**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This includes putting **off** old habits and **developing** **new** **patterns** that honour God

**Ephesians 4:22-32** New International Version (NIV)

**22**You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

**23**to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

**24**and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**25**Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

**26**“In your anger do not sin”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-32&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-29299a" \o "See footnote a)]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27**and do not give the devil a foothold. **28**Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands,that they may have something to share with those in need.

**29**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**30**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**31**Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

**32**Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

In short, we experience true freedom in Christ by **knowing** **Him**, **walking in His ways**, and **engaging with the changes** **He makes in and through our lives as we focus on service to** **Him and to others.**

This freedom transcends the **human freedoms** desired in this world, providing **peace in this life and freedom with Christ forevermore.**