

Today we are continuing our discussion on:
The Requirements of Freedom

*Our foundation scripture was taken from **Galatians, 5 verse 1 and verse 13** where the apostle Paul admonishes us to stand fast in our Christian liberty, (by **maintaining a position of personal responsibility**).*

- *Freedom is a spiritual heritage, that is given to humanity to master the human experience.*

Many people are not experiencing freedom today because they think freedom is to do as one pleases without bearing the consequences for their actions.

- *Freedom has within it an inherited responsibility.*

Deuteronomy 30:19 “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! (*New Living Translation*)

One of the significant causes of frustration and disillusionment by those who have been victims of oppression and self-imposed bondage, is they confuse their right to choose as freedom.

Notice: *the word blessings and curses are connected to the choices we make.*

- *Choices provide the opportunity for freedom, not the fulfillment of freedom.*

Freedom requires responsibility and self-imposed discipline to obtain its long-term fulfillment.

Irresponsibility is freedom's deadliest enemy.

Irresponsibility Reveals Itself Through:

- *Rebellion against authority.*
- *Lack of accountability.*
- *Inability to respond to one's own conscience.*
- *Transference of blame for one's behavior to others.*

- *Blaming the past for present social and financial problems.*

*We cannot think we could replace personal responsibility with individual right to act **as** we please without consequences that go along with it.*

Proverbs 14:12 Says, Before every man there lies a wide and pleasant road that seems right but ends in death. *(The Living Bible)*

Being too familiar with freedom can cause us to lose the true meaning of it.

We can't think Freedom is:

- *The withdrawal from responsibility.*
- *The absence of law and restrictions to avoid work and obligations.*

- *The right to do whatever we want, or*
- *The release of personal control of supervision.*

True freedom demands responsibility, requires us to do the right thing, creates boundaries for protection against going back into bondage and establishes conviction as a way to control appetites.

*Remember what Verse 13 of **Galatians 5** Says, For you, brethren, have been called to liberty (*freedom*); only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

- ***We can lose our freedom when we avoid personal responsibility.***

*Jesus made a remarkable statement in **Luke 11:24 to 26** about personal responsibility.*

Verse,24“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’

- *Being delivered does not mean we are exempt from oppression.*

25. And when he comes, he finds *it* swept and put in order. **26.** Then he goes and takes with *him* seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first.”

- *Freedom makes us responsible and accountable for our actions.*

*When we look back to the story of Cain and Able in **Genesis, 4** we find Cain did not want to take responsibility for his choice of action –*

which was to kill his brother because of his rejection and low self-esteem.

*God told Cain he must become responsible for his thoughts and actions. **In Genesis 4** (from *The Living Bible*) **Verse 6** says "Why are you angry?" the Lord asked him. "Why is your face so dark with rage? **7** It can be bright with joy if you will do what you should! (*Cain had a choose in his struggle*) But if you refuse to obey, watch out. Sin is waiting to attack you, longing to destroy you. But you can conquer it!"*

- *The fullness of our freedom is based on the extent of our knowledge of its requirements.*

***In John 8:31 & 32** Jesus tells us that what we know will affect the amount of freedom we experience in this life. **31.** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in*

My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (NKJV)

To walk in freedom we must first understand the difference between deliverance, the wilderness and the freedom of what was promised to us.

For example: Israel’s excitement of seeing the hand of God in dealing with their enemy at the Red Sea quickly turned into sorrow because they were not prepared to face what was ahead of them in the promise land.

In Numbers, 14

- *Deliverance is like going on a honeymoon, it provides an opportunity for freedom, but not the fulfillment of freedom.*
- *Deliverance is only an event that prepared us for freedom.*

- *Deliverance has more to do with God working independent of us; He does it for us.*

Deliverance is about God working miracles for us. God supplies the grace we need for our journey out of bondage.

The children of Israel were not responsible for their deliverance out of Egypt.

- *God's ability supplemented the children's inability to deliver themselves.*

Deuteronomy 5:15 says Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

- *There is nothing wrong with getting a helping hand as long as you know that*

with a helping hand comes personal responsibility.

For example: In John 5 when Jesus healed the impotent man who was sick for thirty eight years, He (Jesus) commanded him to be responsible by taking up his bed and walking.

After the deliverance there will be wilderness training and preparation on how-to live-in freedom.

The wilderness is where we learn to trust God when we cannot see any trace of His presence in our lives.

The purpose of wilderness training is to develop our ability to respond to the responsibility of freedom – training provides the testing ground to find out if we qualify to walk in freedom.

- *God gives us what we can manage not what we ask for.*
- *God never takes anyone forward until they quit looking backward during the process of difficult situations.*

Many of us are so preoccupied with the realities of our past that our present and future is consumed by past experiences. The wilderness is the place God wants us to abandon the memories of past negative experiences and learn how to handle the responsibility of freedom.

Isaiah 43:18 says, “Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. **19.** Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will

even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

- *In the wilderness things will be cut from us that were used as excuses to why we cannot see ourselves living in the promise land.*
- *In the wilderness, what brought us out of bondage will have to die with us. We must defeat the enemy within before we can defeat the enemy without.*
- *Many failures in life can be traced back to the perception we have of ourselves and others who occupy what we want.*

The wilderness experience is to teach us how we should see ourselves and act out what freedom is all about.

God Will Never Give You What He Did Not Qualify You To Manage.

We can see this in the life of Caleb in Numbers 14: (NKJV) this is when Israel was disturbed by what they had to face to gain freedom from bondage; their minds were still preoccupied with a victim mentality.

But in verse 24 God said this about Caleb. My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

Notice *Caleb became qualified because he allowed the experience in the wilderness to change his mind-set from a slave mentality to a freedom mentality.*

There are Three Tests we have to pass before we can truly be introduced to Freedom.

- 1. The Test for the Appetite.***
- 2. The Test for Power.***
- 3. The Test for Pride***

Let's look closer at each one of these tests.

Test One: The Test of the Appetites.

Proverbs 23:1 -3 (International Children Bible) If you sit down to eat with a ruler, notice the food that is in front of you.

2 Control yourself if you have a big appetite.

3 Don't be greedy for his fine foods. He might use that rich food to trick you.

The Biggest temptation we all face in life comes through our appetite, wanting things we are not equipped to handle.

Many people disqualify themselves from personal freedom because they never change their appetite for the things of the past.

Freedom requires self-control.

We'll never be free to discover what we can be until we control the appetite of our flesh.

The Second Test: Test For Power.

Ecclesiastes 10:16 Woe to you, O land (*or nation*) whose king was a servant (*or a slave*) and whose princes feast in the morning.
(NIV)

- *A slave is not qualified to rule without training.*

- *Power without personal responsibility will lead to a life of destructive behavior.*

Most of us are living our lives from a position of ignorance.

- *All we know is what we have learned; all we've learned isn't all we need to know.*

The Third Test: Test of Pride.

- *Pride deceives us into thinking we don't need God to make it in life.*

Jesus tells us that pride will cause us to lack judgment and intellect when we take the credit for ourselves.

*We learn this from the story of the prosperous farmer. In **Luke 12: 16-21.***

We will “pass all three tests” to achieve personal freedom with flying colors if we take personal responsibility associated directly with God’s word and plan for our lives.

- *With Freedom, God makes us part of the miracle. He will do things differently that He does with us in deliverance.*
- *The things God did **for us** when He delivered us will be stopped. God will start doing these things **with us** because living the life of an inheritance can put us at a disadvantage rather than advantage.*
- *To live in freedom requires the supernatural. The Super is God’s part; the natural is our part.*

Remember our foundational Scripture Galatians 5:1 Stand fast (maintain your

position) therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free (*that's the supernatural part*), and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (*That's the natural part we are responsible for*).

- *Maintaining our freedom is a joint venture with God.*

*Paul says in **Philippians 2:12*** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- *God working in us is His super joining forces with our natural that gives Him pleasure.*

- *We must learn what freedom is and what it requires in order for us to appreciate its value.*
- *We will never appreciate the value of a thing if we don't know how it came into being.*

In EXODUS 23: *God realize that the children of Israel could not possess their promise land because they were not mentally prepared to occupy it.*

*So He made this statement in verses 29, 30 of Exodus, 23 "I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. **30** "Little by little I will drive them out from before you, Until You Have Increased, and you inherit the land. (NKJ)*

What is freedom and what does it require?
To live in freedom requires us to eliminate our mindset of being a spectator and start to transform to a mindset of a responsible participator.

In Joshua 5:9-12 is where God wanted Israel to let go of the wilderness mentality and embrace a work mentality.

True Freedom is the ability to construct the destiny we want for ourselves and our children.

In Joshua 1: 1-8 Gives us a clear picture that freedom demands personal strength, courage and discipline for us to succeed in it.

When our work becomes as important as three meals a day, we are qualified as a responsible person living in freedom.

The Only Thing We can get from Freedom Is a Promise of a Future...

- *Freedom, in its truest sense, is having the liberty to use the power of our will to make the right choice between alternatives in life.*

Freedom is the right to Govern, Manage And Control our own Life.

The Law of Productivity Governs The Responsibility Of Freedom.

The purpose for freedom is productivity not destruction.

Genesis 1:26-28 *God gave mankind management responsibilities, not ownership responsibilities over His creation.*

In Verse 28, the ability of us to manage and how this impacts our progress in life is reinforced. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be Fruitful, and Multiply, and Replenish the earth, and subdue it: and Have Dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
(KJV)

Freedom brings four things to us that guarantees success for a lifetime.

These are:

- *Fruitfulness.*
- *Multiplication.*
- *Replenishment.*
- *Subdue the earth.*

No. 1 Fruitfulness. *This is to bring forth what is in us. In Genesis 1:11 God said that the fruit of everything is in itself, upon the earth.*

- *Part of the process of freedom involves being fruitful.*

Going into Canaan was the Israelite's dream seeds of a promise.

- *A dream is a photograph of something that is yet to be revealed.*

In the book of Joshua 1: 1-9 God tells Joshua how to water his dream seed so it can produce fruitfulness.

Everything God gives us comes in seed form because our future is in our seed.

2 Corinthians 9:10 *From The Amp Bible says,*
And God Who provides seed for the sower
and bread for eating will also will also
provide and multiply your resources for
sowing, and increase the fruits of your
righteousness which manifests itself in active
goodness, kindness and charity.

- *Success in life doesn't come from the people we know or where we go but in the seed we sow.*

Proverbs 17:8 says a gift is as a precious
stone in the eyes of him that hath it:
whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth. (KJV)

- *Every seed has in it the potential for success.*

Proverbs 18:16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

- *Our success is in us, not in the validation from someone else.*

*Paul said to his son in the faith in **2 Timothy 1:6** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you;*

- *God custom made us; he pre-fitted us with the gift that would make our lives fruitful.*

Joseph's gift brought him a fruitful position in Egypt. His ability to interpret dreams brought him promotion and success in the middle of all his difficulties.

The Second Thing We Are Responsible For In Freedom Is Multiplication. Which simply means: To excel and expand.

- *Without Multiplication We Become Self-Satisfied And Complacent.*

- *To multiply we have to increase our knowledge. Increased knowledge about our seed-gift produces increased value of our labor.*
- *If we aren't increasing, we aren't growing. If we aren't growing we will wither and fade away.*
- *To expand we must have a vision.*

To develop fruit beyond our own circle of influence or environment we must go beyond ourselves. We can't multiply if we're only filled with ourselves – we need the fuel of external understanding to stimulate true fruitfulness.

*You remember **Matthew 25:24-29** the man with the one talent lost what he had because he did not multiply his seed.*

The Third Law Is to Replenish:

To fill or make complete again; add a new stock or supply to.

***The Fourth Law: Subdue The Earth,
bring under control.***