

FINDING FREEDOM

Free From Our Past

Matthew 8:14-17

1. The Past That Haunts Us

2. The Chains That Bind Us

*The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good,
and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil,
for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* ~ Luke 6:45

- Heart is the source of the mind, emotion, and will – Mark 7:23
- Heart is the well spring of life – Proverbs 4:23
- Heart is where we come to know God – Romans 2:5, 2 Corinthians 3:15ff, 4:6
- God alone can search the heart – Romans 8:27, 1 Thessalonians 2:4
- Heart is where we believe – Romans 10:10
- Heart is where we lust and crave – Romans 1;27
- Heart is where we obey – Romans 6:17, Ephesians 6:6
- Heart is deceitful – Jeremiah 17:9-10
- Heart is the place of change; place of meeting God and acting; place of worship, place of covenant – 1 Samuel 12:24, Jeremiah 32:40
- God alone can reveal the things of the heart (1 Corinthians 4:5), examine them (Romans 8:27), test them (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
- Heart is the place where God dwells with man, where the question for or against God is decided – Romans 2:5
- God opens the heart – Acts 16:14
- Heart is where the word of God is kept – Luke 8:15
- Heart is where peace of Christ begins its rule – Colossians 3:15
- Heart is strengthened and established by God – Hebrews 13:9
- Heart is where Christ dwells by faith – Ephesians 3:17

3. The Strategies That Fail Us – Deny, Elevate, Justify, Fight

4. The Truths That Free Us

- Your sins are not just forgiven, their past is not defining your life. “I, even I, am He that blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins.” Isaiah 43:25
- God heals the effects of sin in our lives. “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3 “In Him, you are complete.” Colossians 2:10
- God knits that brokenness into something beautiful. “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

5. The Freedom That Awaits Us

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Dear Heavenly Father,

What a joy it is to begin this day, calling out to you “Abba, Father!” That’s a cry of great peace, needful surrender and firm hope. You love me because you love me, period. Hallelujah, many times over!

Recently, Father, certain settings and particular people have triggered some old lingering hurts in me, and I realize that I’m not as free as I want to be; more importantly, I’m not as free as you intend me to be. I relive old stories and fantasize different endings. I go from appropriate lament to unhelpful blame-assigning. My thoughts race to unhealthy places, and then my feet race, just to get away. But I don’t really leave the pain.

Father, In this very moment, I surrender to your Spirit’s work in my life—I collapse on Christ and avail myself of the power of Christ. You must heal and change me, for all I can do is “treat and bandage my wounds lightly”.

I choose not to nurse grudges, but to drink living water. I choose neither to deny my feelings, nor justify my bad attitude. I choose not to gossip, but to gossip the gospel. I choose to run to Jesus, and not just run.

Through Christ I pray, amen.