

Week 51: "Establishing Your Freedom in Christ"

Day one--Establishing Your Freedom in Christ

Read: James 4:1-12 (p. 1444)

Read: Commentary (p. 1445)

Reflect:

Galatians 5:1 (p.1350) says "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Assess your freedom in Christ. You may want to go back to the personal evaluation on page 1009 to help you assess.

Dig:

The commentary breaks this passage down into 3 main battles that are waged against our freedom in Christ--battles against: 1.) the flesh (v.1-3); 2.) the world (v. 4-6); and 3.) the devil (v.7).

1) The flesh: What desires battle within you? What does Psalm 37:4 (p. 616) have to say about desires and delight? Are you doing that?

2) The world: What does it mean to be a "friend of the world"? (v.4) What doesn't it mean? See I Corinthians 5:9-11 (p. 1310) and I John 2:15-17 (p. 1466) for additional insights. Are you a friend of the world?

3) The devil: Are you resisting the devil?

Apply:

Consider the seven issues mentioned in the commentary. In which area(s) do you need to submit to God? Take time to do so right now.

(Note: if you would like to partner with someone in prayer regarding these issues, consider making a Freedom in Christ appointment by calling Gordon Griffin at 248-8116).

Week 51: "Establishing Your Freedom in Christ"

Day two--Renouncing

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:1-2 (p. 1330)

Read: Commentary (p. 1332)

Reflect:

Are you clinging to any secret or shameful ways?

Dig:

What ministry is Paul referring to in v. 1? See chapter 3:6 for a previous reference.

By reading verses 1 and 2 together we see a subtle connection that Paul makes between renouncing and not losing heart. What does living a double life do to our strength? (v.1)

See Proverbs 28:13 (p. 725) for additional insight.

What parallels do you see between 2 Cor. 4:2 and John 3:19-21 (p.1202) and I John 1:5-7 (p. 1466)?

Are you walking in the light?

Apply:

Verbally renounce any secret or shameful ways that could distort your testimony of the gospel.

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Day three--Who is Responsible for What?

Read: 2 Thessalonians 3 (p. 1391-2)

Read: Commentary (p. 1392)

Reflect:

Identify a time when you've tried to "play God" or take on some of the responsibilities that are his, not yours.

Dig:

Remind yourself of some of God's commands of us (our responsibility) and of some of his promises to us (his responsibility).

God's Commands	God's Promises
Matthew 22:37-39 (p. 1110) I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (p.1387) Proverbs 3:5,6 (p. 694) I Corinthians 15:58 (p. 1324) Ephesians 6:11 (p. 1363) Colossians 3:12-17 (p. 1378) Philippians 4:4-6 (p. 1371)	Philippians 4:7 (p. 1371) 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (1392) Isaiah 43:1-3 (p. 797) I Corinthians 10:13 (p. 1316) 2 Corinthians 12:9 (p. 1340) John 14:1-3; 16-18 (p. 1221)

Apply:

Which promise did you need to hear most today? Commit it to memory and carry it in your heart today.

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Day four--Assuming Our Responsibility

Read: James 5:13-15 (p. 1447)

Read: Commentary (p. 1446)

Reflect:

When have you sought counsel when you knew that God was first prompting you to deal with the issue with him directly?

Dig:

What is your instinctive way to react when you're in trouble? What does verse 13 say we should do? See Philippians 4:6 (p. 1371) and Colossians 4:2 (p. 1378) for supporting passages.

Why do you suppose there is such a close link made between prayer for physical healing and confession of sin? (v. 15,16)

Physical illness is not always the result of sin (see John 9:1-3; p. 1213). However, sin can and often does affect our whole body--even our physical health (see Psalm 32:1-5; p. 612).

How is your physical health? Your spiritual health? What are you doing about it?

Apply:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of your life where you are not assuming the responsibility that God has given you, then receive his strength and grace to assume that responsibility.

Week 51: "Establishing Your Freedom in Christ"**Day five--Do You Want to Get Well?**

Read: John 5:1-15 (p. 1204)

Read: Commentary (p. 1205)

Reflect:

Is there an area of your life that is unhealthy--spiritually, emotionally, physically? Do you want to get well?

Dig:

Compare this passage with the account given in Mark 5:21-34 (p. 1131). What similarities and what differences do you notice?

With whom do you identify--the man in the passage from John or the woman in the passage from Mark?

Apply:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any excuses that you tend to make that prevent you from being healthy and free in Christ. Confess that excuse to God and in a step of boldness share it with someone you trust.