

Life in the Spirit – The Long Race

(Gal 5:1, 7-22)

Life Center Missions — Lifelines to the Nations

BRAZIL!! Global Awakening — On this trip we reached 13,400 people with **1,414 healings** (941 when you prayed & 473 sovereign) — **20 blind eyes** opened, **10 deaf ears** opened, **13 tumors** that disappeared, **7 lame** walking and **8 metal miracles** — **771** emotional /deliverances, **87** salvations (35 when you prayed, 52 that responded to an invitation) ... !

Life in the Spirit — the Good Race Freedom

I. Identity & Inheritance

Spirit of Adoption; Children then heirs.

II. Freedom is RESTORATION

A. Work of Christ — Restoration of the Image of God

[Galatians 5:1](#) (ESV) **For freedom** Christ has **set us free**; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. *[slide 1]*

In every area where I am not free, the work of Christ has not completely conquered me. Mature or perfect LOVE will conquer every fear.

Freedom in EVERY sphere of Life

SHALOM —

Shalom means more than peace. It means completion, wholeness, the integration of the parts into a single interlocking system, ordered complexity, harmony.

Jonathan Sacks, *Leviticus: The Book of Holiness, Covenant & Conversation* v. 3, (Maggid: Jerusalem, 2015), 255. Kindle Edition

1. Inner sphere

Shalom — Heart, Soul, Imagination, Capacity...

2. Relational spheres

Shalom — Family, Friends, Network of relationships, wider community and society

3. Creation

Shalom — stewardship of opportunities, unlocking doors of possibility,

[Genesis 1:31](#) And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good**....

Shalom is **anchored in reality, truth**

B. Response and Responsibility of Freedom

Galatians [5:1b](#) ... stand firm **therefore**, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

STAND FIRM— Stick to your ground. Stay there. Stand UP not Stand DOWN (keep your armor on and your weapon ready, be ready for action)

DON'T SUBMIT (be **burdened**, be **entangled**, **get tied up**) **AGAIN** to a yoke of slavery...

Faith working through Love — the only thing that matters

[5:6](#) For in Christ Jesus **neither** circumcision **nor** uncircumcision **counts for anything** (*carries and value, has any weight*), but only **faith working through love**. (*is activated and brought to perfection through love*)

(NET) —the only thing that matters is **faith working through love**.

III. Called to Truth and Freedom

Truth sets us free

A. Tragedy of Deception

[7](#) You were running well (*kalos*). **Who** hindered you from **obeying the truth**?

[8](#) This persuasion is **not from him** who calls you.

Not flesh and blood, but principalities, powers, spiritual wickedness in high places.

The spheres of acquaintances and culture

[Romans 1:18](#) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**”

In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five, and you would **have to believe it**. It was inevitable... ; the logic of their position demanded it.

Not merely the validity of **experience**, but the very **existence of external reality**, was **tacitly denied** by their philosophy.

The heresy of heresies was common sense.

The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command.

—Orwell, George. 1984 (p. 55). Kindle Edition.

“Reproductive Freedom”

“Gender v. biological identity”

B. Consequences — permeation

5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

C. The Inevitability of the Abundant Life.

[Galatians 5:13–14](#) For you were **called to freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. ¹⁴ For the **whole law is fulfilled** in one word: “You shall **love your neighbor as yourself**.”

Kingdom permeation...

[Matthew 13:33](#) “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, **till it was all leavened**.”

Howard Storm — I don’t know your plan... Love one another.

D. Mutual Respect Needed to Maintain Love

15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
FREEDOM!

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are **opposed to each other**, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

18 But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law.”

IV. True Freedom

[John 8:31–32](#) (ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you **abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will **know the truth**, and **the truth will set you free**.”

[John 14:16-17](#) (ESV) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper**, to be with you forever,¹⁷ even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he **dwells with** you and will **be in** you.

TRUTH ABOUT OUR ADOPTION

[John 14:18](#) (NET) I will not abandon you as orphans, I will come to you.

[Romans 8:14](#) (ESV) For all who are **led by the Spirit** of God are **sons of God**.¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

TRUTH ABOUT THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

[John 16:13](#)(ESV) When the **Spirit of truth** comes, he will **guide you into all the truth**, ..., and he will **declare to you the things that are to come**.¹⁴ He will glorify me, for **he will take what is mine** and **declare** it to you.¹

HS PRESENCE RELEASES LIBERTY & TRANSFORMATION

[2 Corinthians 3:16](#) (ESV) But when one turns to the Lord, the **veil is removed**. **(conversion)**¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is**, there is **freedom**. **(liberation)**¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the **same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from **the Lord** who is **the Spirit**. **(transformation)**

renewal of the mind [Romans 12:2](#) (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God **transform** you into a new person by **changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

1. TO BE FREE WE MUST BE SET FREE TO BE WHO WE ARE

Human freedom is the **capacity for genuine choice** and thus the ability to be who we are, to think and speak for ourselves, and to act in line with who we are and what we choose.

Internal as well as **external**. People may be as externally and politically free as any people have ever been, but they will only feel free if they have inner freedom to match their outer freedom.

First, freedom requires truth, the understanding of the reality of reality.

Unless we know the meaning of life and our nature as human beings, we neither know who we are nor how we should live.

Second, freedom has to be both negative and positive. We must be free **from** anything and anyone that constrains us wrongly from who we are meant to be. Internal issues, such as pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust. ... or External source, such as a schoolyard

bully, an abusive parent, an addiction to alcohol or drugs, a political tyrant, or a false ideology.

“It took God one day to get the Jews out of Egypt, but it took God forty years and more to get Egypt out of the Jews.”

Freedom is not the permission to do what we like, but the power to do what we ought.

To live well, love well, choose wisely, and do good, **freedom requires truth**, freedom requires **character**, and freedom requires **a way of life aligned with freedom**.

2. TO BE FREE IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE

At the heart of freedom is responsibility. The greatest test of freedom is the way a free person and a free people handle the responsibilities of freedom.

Responsibility means, for example, that **the person who makes a promise and gives their word becomes a debtor to other people**, and the person (or people) the promise is made to become the creditor.

True freedom and responsibility are inseparable. They are at the very heart of growing up into adult life and into the full membership of a family, a community, or a nation.

3. FREEDOM CAN MEAN AN ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTEST

In the Bible’s view, sin, evil, wrong, injustice, and abuse are all the result of the misuse and abuse of freedom, and central to them all is a refusal to take responsibility. (Adam’s “The woman whom You gave to be with me . . .” is a refusal of personal responsibility, Cain’s “Am I my brother’s keeper?” is a refusal of moral responsibility, and the builders of the Tower of Babel represent a refusal of existential responsibility.)

Jews and Christians are protesters. They never simply adjust to the world or resign themselves to life, because the world as it stands is a world gone wrong.

When God tells Abraham of the judgment to fall on Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham protests. “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? . . . Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” ([Genesis 18:23, 25](#)).

No lawgiver is above the law, even if the lawgiver is God himself.

4. FREEDOM MEANS LEADERSHIP

Leadership is taking responsibility—a person taking responsibility for the other—for people, for a situation, or for a moment that is right in front of them. We are each called to be leaders in this sense: to take responsibility in our own circles to do what we can do in response to what we see needs to be done—

This take-responsibility character of leadership is the reason why a free society flourishes when there is leadership in every sphere and at every level.

5. TO BE FREE REQUIRES RESPECT FOR THE EQUAL FREEDOM OF OTHERS

Any freedom or right that we claim for ourselves by virtue of our humanity must at once be accorded equally to all others who are human too. Freedom therefore includes an more difficult element: mutual respect for the equal freedom and responsibility of others.

As the Bible sees it, self-restraint is at the heart of freedom in creation. To create humans free, God limits himself. **He will not enter the human heart unless invited.**

Self-restraint is at the heart of human community. We must each respect the point at which we have no right to enter or interfere unless the other person freely chooses to let us in.

[Galatians 5:14](#) For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

6. HUMANS ARE LIKE THE ONE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Created in the image of God, every single human being is unique, precious, and irreplaceable by any other human being. God, Creator of all that is, transcends the world of time and space that he has created. He cannot and must not be represented by any created image—except one: **the human creatures** made in his image and likeness. Thus, **we humans are like the absolutely unlike**. Being God-like, we are not God, but being God-like, we are more than animals.

Real freedom is what makes possible real change and real growth.

Alone among the life forms on the earth, we are created with the ability to choose decisively and consequentially.

TRUE FREEDOM GIVEN BY GOD

First, according to the Bible’s account the truth of human freedom and responsibility begins with the astonishing fact that the first humans were free and able to choose to follow their own will rather than God’s. **The first sin**, the source of original sin, was the expression of original freedom. ...

The **right to be wrong** spelled **freedom**, or ... **misspelled** freedom. [1]

Second and remarkably, God addressed humans as free even after they had sinned... Freedom was not lost entirely after the fall. God warned Cain of the real-life consequences of the choice he was pondering in his heart and was about to make, “If you do well . . .” God said, and “If you do not do well . . .” ([Genesis 4:7](#))

Third, God continues to respect human **freedom** and **responsibility** down through history in always **addressing humans with a choice** as he confronts them.

[Deuteronomy 30:15](#) ““See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.” 19 ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore **choose** life, that you and your offspring may live,”

God addressed his people as **set free** and **able to choose**. They were free to choose. There would be **real consequences** because it was a real choice.

Fourth, and most intriguingly, the importance of freedom is conveyed in profound way in which humans are invited to come to know God and relate to God.

The God of the Bible is the Creator of nature and is outside nature, and

he can never be seen.

He can only be heard.

He speaks, and we humans are to listen. The Hebrew **shema**, translated “hear or listen,” is not blind obedience.

To listen means to engage actively, to pay attention and pay heed, to reflect and to deliberate before responding freely.

Life is not fate. Freedom is a God-given gift and priceless. We humans may well make a wreck of our freedom. We may even end in bondage, but God does not take back his gift. All human beings are created for a life of freedom and responsibility, and we can be set free to live free.

7. GOD CARES EVEN IF OTHERS DON'T

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

[Galatians 5:22](#)(ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

V. Daily - Come, Drink, Fill, Stand in this Grace!

Breathe in the Breath of Christ — Drink the River that Makes Glad

Holy Spirit pour Love and SAVING, DELIVERING, BOUNTIFUL GRACE into My Heart

Guide into All the Truth

Reveal the Father & the Son — Spirit of Adoption

Open the Eyes of my heart, that I might know

Liberate, Deliver

Sanctify — supernatural access, divine nature

Fill to overflowing (rivers to flow)

Clothe in Light, Fire, Wind, Oil,

Saturate

Empower

Speak to and through

Unpack the Gifts