



## Living in Freedom

By Jeff Bedwell on March 11, 2022

**TODAY'S READING:** Galatians 5

If Galatians is the Magna Carta of Christian liberty, then verse 1 can be considered one of the key verses of the entire letter: “*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery*” (Galatians 5:1, ESV).

Objectively we know this: We are free from the *penalty* of sin (justification). We do not have to live with a sense of being unacceptable to God. By grace through our faith in Christ we have been made acceptable. (See Romans 8:1.)

Subjectively, or experientially, we need to learn how to live free from the *power* of sin (sanctification). We are free, but we do not always live free. We need to become who we already are in Christ Jesus. Or in the words to Simba in Disney’s *Lion King* movie, we need to “remember who you are” and live in light of our true identity. Sounds simple, but how do you practically experience this freedom? Paul helps us in this chapter and the next.

1. Rest and rejoice in the transforming work of Jesus Christ on your behalf, rejecting the lies from false teaching (vv. 2-12).
2. Recognize part of the purpose of your freedom—to love and serve others (vv. 13-15).
3. Rely on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as you live your life in dependence on and obedience to the Holy Spirit (vv. 16-26).
4. Remember the “Law of Sowing and Reaping” (Galatians 6:7-9).

A powerful truth is that the things we do, do something to us. They shape us, they spiritually form us (remember Paul’s desire from yesterday’s devotion). Every choice we make forms and shapes us one way or the other. What we think about, talk about, watch, read, listen to, who we associate with, and the actions we take on a daily basis are either helping us to live out of our new life in Jesus Christ resulting in freedom and life or enslaving us to the corruption, decay and death of the flesh.

How are the things that you habitually do shaping you? Any adjustments that need to be made to live your life more fully in the freedom from the power of sin that can be yours in Christ Jesus?

**PRAYER:** Father, thank You for the freedom and forgiveness I have in Christ Jesus. Help me reject the lies of the enemy and remember who I am in Christ. Help me make daily choices to increasingly become who You have already declared me to be in Christ.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Galatians 6

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