

2020 Vision - Part 5
How To Enjoy Your Freedom

- Freedom

Col. 2:6-10 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

How To Enjoy Your Freedom

1st) Remain in **HIM**.

Col. 2:6 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

John 19:28-30 (NIV) Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

What is finished?

A) My sins have been **FORGIVEN**

Hebrews 9:15b (NLT) "Christ died to set people free from the penalty of the sins they committed under that first covenant."

B) Death has been **DEFEATED**

Romans 5:17 (NLT) For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.,

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT) Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

C) He broke Satan's **POWER** to mess up your life.

Colossians 1:13 (NIV) "God rescued us from the dark power of Satan and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves"

- Forgiveness
- He forgave us and we forgive others

2nd) Be **AWARE**.

- *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,*

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again..."

Galatians 1:7 (NIV)"Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the Good News of Christ."

3 things to be aware of:

A) Be Aware of **PERFECTIONISM**

- What is a perfectionist?
- A perfectionist is believing or trying to please God by being perfect.
- Definition: Thinking that I must be perfect in order to please God.

Gal. 3:1, 3 (NB) "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain perfection by human effort?"

2 Cor. 12:9 (NIV) "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

B) Be Aware of **LEGALISM**.

- A legalist -- definition: Measuring my maturity by the number of rules that I keep.
- We love to have 'dos' and 'don'ts'

Galatians 4:8-10 (NIV)Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years!

- You can't work your way to heaven

1 John 4:18 (NIV) "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love"

C) Be Aware of **CONFORMISM**

- What is a conformist? A conformist is living to please others rather than God.
- The primary concern of a conformist is, "What will other people think?"

Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of man is a snare."

- It's the misbelief that I must have the approval of everybody in order to be happy

Galatians 5:7-9 (NIV) You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

3rd) Exercise Your **AUTHORITY**.

Col. 2:10 (ESV) and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Col. 2:15 (ESV) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- If the battle is to be won, it must be won by Christ in our lives, not by our power to resist and fight.

Exercising Authority Includes:

A) **PRAYER**

- The reason it's so hard to pray is it's spiritual warfare
- "the evil one"

Luke 22:31-32 (NIV) "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers"

B) **FAITH**

Eph. 6:16 (NIV) "In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one"

- Another word for faith is *trust*.

C) **RESISTANCE**

1 Peter 5:9 (NIV) Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

- You were meant to be active in your walk with Christ.

D) **TRUTH**

Eph. 6:14,17 (NIV) Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place... Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.