

# The Freedom You didn't Know You Needed

## Bumper Video

### Welcome

Every 4th of July, we celebrate something sacred: **freedom**.

We fire up grills, wave flags, and light fireworks—all to honor a bold declaration made in 1776.

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights—that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

That statement sparked a revolution. And we've been celebrating the gift of freedom ever since.

But here's the strange thing:

Even in a country built on freedom... many of us don't actually *feel* free.

We've got political freedom, religious freedom, personal choice.

But inside?

Some of us are still carrying anxiety, shame, addiction, fear, and pressure.

We're *free on paper*, but not always free in practice.

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Maybe you've felt it.

"I should be happy. I'm blessed. But something still feels heavy inside of me."

"I go to church, but I still feel like I'm not good enough."

"I know God loves me... but I keep trying to prove myself anyway."

So here's the question we're going to answer today:

## **What kind of freedom did Jesus actually offer—and how do we live in it?**

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Let's look at this powerful verse from the Apostle Paul:

*"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."*  
—Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

Paul is writing to believers who had received the free gift of grace but were sliding back into pressure—trying to earn what they had already been given.

Jesus had set them free, but they were NOT experiencing that freedom.

They had received the goodnews by faith in Jesus... but they lacked the freedom that the death, burial, and resurrection brings.

**Sometimes we believe it, but don't live it.**

Freedom in Christ is real, but that doesn't mean we always live in it.

Sometimes we go back to old chains...

### **3 Types of Spiritual Slavery**

#### **1 Chained to Performance**

This is when we believe we have to earn God's love by doing everything right.

*"If I'm good enough, maybe God will accept me."*

- You constantly fear that God is disappointed in you.

- You serve at church, not out of joy, but because you're afraid to say no.
- You feel guilty anytime you rest or stop “doing enough” spiritually.
- It is never enough to EARN GOD’S LOVE... *“I must... faith more, give more, be more, do more...”*

But that’s not freedom—that’s exhausting.

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE.

### Ephesians 2:8–9 (NIV)

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”*



**Truth:**

**You don’t need to earn God’s love—you already have it.**

**Grace isn’t a paycheck; it’s a gift.**

## 2 Stuck in Self-Destruction

This is when we think freedom means  
“doing whatever I want.”

*“I’m free, so I’ll just live how I feel.”*

But sin always overpromises and underdelivers. Eventually, it becomes the thing that owns us.

- You justify unhealthy habits by saying, “God will forgive me anyway.”
- You avoid accountability because “no one can judge me.”
- Sexual immorality
- Substance abuse
- Gossip and slander
- Uncontrolled anger
- Greed and materialism
- Bitterness and unforgiveness

These things feel like freedom in the moment—but they always lead to slavery. What starts as a choice turns into a chain.



### Truth:

Freedom in Christ isn't freedom to sin—it's freedom *from* sin's grip.

God's grace frees you *to flourish*, not self-destruct.

### 3 Buried in Shame

This is when we've been forgiven by Jesus, but we're still haunted by our past.

*"God may love me... but He can't really use me."*

- You replay past mistakes over and over in your mind.
- You avoid stepping into ministry or leadership because you feel unworthy.

- You believe God has forgiven you—but you haven't forgiven yourself.

That's not freedom. That's a prison without bars.

**Romans 8:1 (NIV)**

*"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*



**Truth:**

**In Christ, your past is not your prison.  
If there's no condemnation from God,  
there should be none from you either.**

Let's be honest:

Are you really free?

**Galatians 5:13 (NIV)**

*"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free."*

Let that sink in:

You were *called* to be free.

Not just **free from** something...

But **free for** something.

## **Free From and Free For**

- Jesus sets us **free from guilt**, so we can live **for grace**.
- He sets us **free from fear**, so we can live **for peace**.
- He sets us **free from sin**, so we can live **for love**.
- He sets us **free from shame**, so we can live **for power and boldness**.

Jesus wants to set your free FROM...

Jesus wants to set you free FOR...

Freedom in Jesus isn't just about dropping baggage—it's about picking up purpose.

Jesus doesn't just set us free to escape something—He sets us free to become someone.

Jesus has freedom for us today.

musicians

## 3 Ways to Live Free

### #1: Identify What's Holding You Back

**This week, ask God to show you one area where you're not living free.**

- What fear keeps popping up?
- What secret weighs you down?
- What part of your life do you still control because you're scared to trust God with it?

Name it. Pray about it.

Watch freedom come.

### #2: Take One Act of Surrender This Week

Don't just think about freedom—practice it.

- Maybe it's choosing to forgive.
- Maybe it's saying "no" to materialism and other addictions.
- Maybe it's turning off the noise and resting.

Freedom is not found in holding on. It's found in letting go.

### #3: Respond in Worship—Right Now

The best time to respond is now.

In just a moment, we're going to sing "**I Surrender All.**"

And I want to invite you—not just to sing the words—but to make this a *moment*.

This is your invitation:

If you're tired of pretending...

If you're ready to stop running...

If you're ready to stop earning and start living in grace...

Come to the altar.

Come to Jesus.

Lay down what you've been carrying.

Because when you **surrender all**, He gives you something better than you could ever earn—**He gives you freedom.**

Benediction

Mission: We Help People Come Together to  
Find FULL LIFE in Jesus Christ.