

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

**Date** : 30 Jan 2022

**Sermon Title** : Freedom or Bondage

**Speaker** : Rev Reuben Ng

**Text** : John 8:31-32; John 17:17

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Due to what had happened to us in our past, some of us believe that we are now unclean and impure and God cannot and will not accept us in His presence, love us or use us ever again. God can remove us from bondage of these lies that we believe in and transit us from bondage into freedom because it is His desire for us to live completely in freedom.

## **God wants us to live in freedom and not under bondage**

Although bondage covers more than just sin, as far as sin is concerned, we were once slaves to sin unable to free ourselves from it but through the work of Christ, God has transited us from bondage to freedom. We can now choose to sin and go back to bondage or stay on the side of freedom.

- Freedom means there is a choice. God did not free us from the bondage of sin to bind us again Himself. Bondage always leads deeper and deeper into bondage but freedom allows us to choose to worship God, follow God's will and plan for our lives and to believe in God.
- As long as we believe and are living and walking in a way that contradicts or is opposite to how God sees a situation or views us, we are in bondage.

To be in freedom is to walk in whatever God views us to be as a beloved child of His, knowing that the moment we confess, He receives us back.

## **How does God transit us from a place of bondage to freedom?**

Fresh encounters with God when we are touched and healed by the Holy Spirit from bondage to freedom still happens today but the primary way God transits us from bondage to freedom is through the Word of God. (John 8:31-32) In these verses, there is a very clear and direct link that Christ puts between His follower/disciple and a mark of what that means: to abide in His word and know the truth and be set free by the truth.

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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## **Know the truth**

The truth is God's Word/Bible and we need to know the truth in order to be set free. To know here is a very intimate knowledge or relationship, of being one with the Word. There are 3 levels of knowing something:

- I. Be aware of it
- II. Accept and Believe in it
- III. Walk in it

Although we are aware of many information, we will only believe in some, and for information that we believe in, it will be even less likely that we will apply, live in or embody that information in our lives by walking in it.

- Similarly, we may know God's Word by being aware of it, even accepting and believing in it, yet not walking in it because we do not do what Jesus tells us. (Luke 6:46) This knowing is not the knowing that will set us free.
- Someone who truly knows God's Word by applying, living in, embodying and walking in it is like a building with a deep and strong foundation not to be shaken by the storm that comes. When hit by different challenging situations, traumatic experiences and even tragedies and when lies may come in to tell him otherwise from where God perceives him to be, he will remain strong. (Luke 6:47-48)
- On the contrary, one who does not do what Jesus says falls when the storm comes.

The importance of truly knowing God's Word, not just on the level of awareness or acceptance and believe but being in an intimate relationship with it, being one with it by embodying, living in and walking in it, is that the truth will set you free.

We are called to truly walk in God's truth and here in Faith Methodist Church, we want to reflect on how we have walked in God's Word through our "FaithWalk! Sermon Discussions" that challenge us to ensure we embody, live and walk out this knowledge.

## **"Abide in my word..." (John 8:31-32)**

Although this is said by Jesus, this does not mean we only abide in what Jesus says because in John 17:17 Jesus prayed to the Father to, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." In John 5:19, Jesus tells us He only does what He sees His Father doing and in John 12:49-50, Jesus also says He only speaks the words that God has given Him to speak. This means that everything Jesus says or does is to give us a full and accurate representation of the Father because even the words

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Jesus speaks come from God the Father. So, the Word of God/Bible is truth and this truth will transit us from bondage, wrong thinking or beliefs or lies.

## **God's Word sets us free**

- Understanding what is constantly going on in our minds when going through a situation will help us realize if what we think contradicts what God's Word says.
- If we are thinking and believing the opposite to how God views us and our situation, we need to seek God's truth in His Word that tells us what He views us and the situation to be, and read through those verses and think about them.
- When we become aware of God's truth and we abide in it and accept and believe in it and start walking in it, our lives will change because when we abide in the Word of God which is the truth of God, the truth will set us free.

## **CONCLUSION**

Let us continue to abide in and know God's Word in the Bible through our TbtW reading plan, to be aware of, accepting and believing, and also walking in God's truth that will transit us from bondage to freedom. As God's people, let us get free and stay free in Jesus' name.

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# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

As a group, spend some time to share your success and struggle in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do at the previous meeting.

## **A. Review Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Reflect on one key takeaway.***

Appoint someone to read John 8:31-32 and John 17:17 twice, slowly.

1. At the end of the reading, the reader will say, ‘This is the Word of the Lord.’

All to respond, “Thanks be to God.” Our response reminds us that this is the Word of the Lord. Just as God had spoken to His people in the past, He is still speaking to us even today, right now.”

a. As God's word was read, how do the 3 verses speak to you?

b. (i) What is the key takeaway for you from the sermon “Freedom or Bondage”?

(ii) How will you align the way you live to your key takeaway?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

2. Do you believe that God wants you to live in freedom and not under bondage?
  - a. What does this freedom in Christ mean according to God's Word?
  - b. What is something you need God to free you from whether in thought, word or deed because it contradicts or is opposite to what God's Word says?
  
- 3a. To know God's truth which can set you free requires a very intimate knowledge or relationship, of being one with the Word. Which of these 3 levels of knowing something do you usually engage God's word in?
  - I. Be aware of it
  - II. Accept and Believe in it
  - III. Walk in it
- 3b. What challenges do you face in being one with God's Word?
- 3c. What is one thing you need to do to overcome the challenges in 3b?
- 3d. How can your group members encourage or help you to achieve 3c above, for the following week(s) till your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies and Prayer**

***Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.***

4. Share your testimony on how abiding in the Word of God transited you from bondage to freedom in Christ.

OR

Give thanks to God that when we know God's Word by applying, living in, embodying and walking in it, we will be strong and not shaken by the storm of different challenging situations, traumatic experiences and even tragedies.

5. With a prayer partner, bring all that have been shared in 3c and 3d to God, committing to support one another in growing a more intimate relationship with God's Word. Seek also the Holy Spirit's enablement to truly know His Word that that will set you free.

As a group, pray that as a church, we may persevere to abide in and know God's Word in the Bible, to be aware of, accepting and believing, and also walking in God's truth that will transit us from bondage to freedom and continue to stay free in Jesus' name.

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