

Receive Rest From Jesus

Part 2

“Break the Yoke of Slavery.”

“1 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)

“1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1 KJV)

Jesus said, ***“28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*** So here there are three commands from Jesus and with this sequence: 1- Come, 2- Take my yoke, 3 Learn from me. Many people they come to the Lord but only few they take the yoke of Jesus and yoke themselves with him. Yoke is an instrument they use to bind two oxen together to plow the ground so they will walk together and in one direction; so no one can go faster or slower, or one will go ahead and the other lag behind. By the yoke no one will go to the right and the other to the left because they are yoked. Yoke in that context is restriction and limitation. Sometimes we think the yoke of Jesus is heavy and restrict us. But the yoke of Jesus is not suffering. The yoke of Jesus is not heaviness but rest and peace; that is why He says my yoke is easy.

To be yoked with Jesus there has privileges and as the following: A- Correct direction from the Lord. B- Constant guidance from the Lord. C- Protection from errors and wrong decisions; therein lays the rest. D- The burden become light because as long as we are yoked with Him He is also carrying the burden. The Yoke of Jesus is true Rest. Many they understand if they surrender fully to God they will have suffering but here Jesus is saying will give us rest.

But certain times people suffer because they are yoked with something else. And when they are yoked with other things they will not be able to learn from Jesus. The people when they are yoked with other things they are in bondage and slave to what they are yoked with. Christ set us free, therefore we need to be aware and not to put ourselves in bondage again: ***“1 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)***

We will go through the life of Abraham and will find out and learn what are the bondages that you might entangle with?

1- “The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1) Your own country culture and tradition, and the tradition of your father house, your relative, and your own people religion and practices you might be keeping and putting yourselves in bondage with.

Abraham was willing to leave all that in order for him to follow God. He really obeyed God and left all that and followed the Lord.

2- “5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. 8 So Abram said to Lot, “Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.” (Genesis 13:5-9) Abraham herdsmen and Lot herdsmen were quarrelling about material things and that affected the relationship of Abram with Lot. It was all about material things. Abram recognized that bondage and freed himself of it. Many times you might be enticed with quarrels due to material things. You need to be aware that all material things are worldly and of no help for you. Let such bondage with material things move away and let not affect your yoke with Jesus. After Lot left Abram, then this what the Lord said to Abram, ***“14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. 17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.” (Genesis 13:14-17)*** Freeing yourselves from material bondage will bring God's real blessings and His inheritance to your descendants.

3- “1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said. 3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.” (Genesis 16:1-4) Why Abram here listen to what his wife told him to have Hagar as wife and put himself in bondage? It is not due to lust. But it was due to the lack of faith. Abraham and Sarah as if doubted that God will give them child because they were old. That bondage was bondage of lack of faith and later on the bondage of adultery. Many people they will not wait for God right timing to marry and to have godly family and godly children. Lack of faith makes them accept the first temptation with a man or a woman as an opportunity of God and they will go for dating and friendship and will end up in adultery. God has a good plan for you to have a family but you need to have faith on him and wait for him till he come and bless you with a family.

4- “9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. 12 But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you,

because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. 13 I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." 14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba." (Genesis 21:9-14) At this event Abraham was asked to send his second wife Hagar and her son Ishmael away to be freed from adultery. **11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.** That is here the bondage of emotion that was ruling in the life of Abraham. He knows his relation with Hagar was adultery but he did not send her away because his emotion in link to his son Ishmael. Many are in same situation of Abraham who has second family, they know it is adultery and the emotions of their hearts hinder them from doing God's will. Many Christian are in control by their emotions and are in bondage and cannot do God's will because emotions ruling their hearts; they are controlled by love, jealousy, anger, bitterness, grudges and unforgiveness.

But Abraham finally overcome and freed himself. I pray that the message shall encourage you to do the same so you will be set free from the bondage of emotions. And when Abraham overcomes his emotion he was able to obey God immediately as you read in Genesis 22 when the Lord asked him to offer his only son Isaac to God.

5- "1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. 2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. 3 Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Asshurites, the Letushites and the Leummites. 4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah. 5 Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. 6 But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east." (Genesis 25:1-6) After the death of Sarah, Abraham took another wife, Keturah. If you look at it, you can say, it is correct because his wife dead. That could be right. But how about Hagar was she dead as well? This we don't know. And we cannot judge about Abraham decision to marry Keturah. But with what Abraham did when he sent all the children of Keturah away, then we can be sure that was not God's will for him to have Keturah as wife. Abraham knew that well it was not God's will for him to do that. But he did it because he was not aware of the consequences of it. But later on when he was able to see how they might affect Isaac and the good plan of God to Abraham and his descendent he repented.

Many Christians and may be you are one of them, may do things, externally it look like in accordance to the word of God. But internally they or you know very well it is against the will of God. This is the bondage of doing your own will that God today wants to set you free from it.

My Dear and Beloved: Jesus said, **"29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."** Throw away whatever yoke not of Jesus and come back to the Lord and take His yoke upon you and be willing to abide with Him and He will teach you how to have and receive rest from Him, as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for revealing your word and your will to me. Lord I repent from the following sins _____. I will throw away the following yoke and bondage. Receive me Lord, set me free and give me rest. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



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"11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

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