

THE BATTLE CRY FOR FREEDOM

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

Freedom is the cry of every human, for everyone is restricted by certain condition, law, tradition, culture, or power. Restrictions that prohibit human freedom may relate to himself or his condition—that he lacks abilities whether physical, emotional, or intellectual capabilities to pursue life. Likewise, there are many different ways or cultures, traditions, and concepts of perceiving and doing things. The previous upbringing of the person or how he usually does and evaluates things may hinder him from being able to associate or live among the group of people. Or, his freedom maybe limited by the power of a certain person or group of people a community or a nation that rules with oppression or injustices. Freedom is the longing of every nation. Yet there are nations under slavery of others and are crying out for freedom. Consequently they result to revolution against the nation or power that controls and oppresses them, either by using economic or military force.

*We see people rallying in the streets and to the top of their voices they shout for freedom. They attack their enemy by banners, written announcements, fliers, songs and slogans. They publicly burn the flags of the opposite party or country, and by all means they ridicule the names of their oppressors.

*We see people lock-up in jail or prisons walking with chains. They stand behind bars, they stretch out their arms beyond the bars and they cry for freedom. The problems of those prisoners are obvious; they are accused for a certain law violated. Hence they are now beyond the bars waiting for the freedom.

The bars for the prisoners are evident, we obviously see them; their restrictions we know. But the truth is this: The people living outside the bars are also limited by certain bars blocking their progress. These bars or limitations may include:

1. Economic and financial limitation.
2. Language and cultural barriers.
3. Physical illnesses and disabilities like limping, stammering, deafness, blindness, disease, etc.
4. Traditional and religious differences.
5. Laws, constitutions, and ruling authorities.
6. Emotional and behavioral character like anger, lack of self-control, etc.
7. Sinful life of lust, immorality, and idol worshipping.
8. Sinful life of greed to possess, and to control or dominate.
9. Demons and the power of darkness that confuses and deceives men.
10. And Satan who enslaves man.

Thousands years ago the whole world was different from the world today. The world was not yet having the new technology and the advancement of today’s life. But the bars that limit mans’ freedom and put him in imprisonment, all are there. About two thousand years ago God sent his Son Jesus to this world to give freedom to man from all kinds of forces and bars: to free men from the effects of sin and consequence of sin

which is death. Jesus gives freedom to all who believe in Him and He promises eternal life to all God’s children. H makes the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, the cripple to walk and the dead to rise. He cast out demons, and grants peace and joy to the afflicted.

After the people saw the miraculous signs that Jesus did, they wanted to make Him their King. They wanted a powerful king to lead revolutions against their oppressors. But, ***“Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself.” (John 6:15)***

Jesus is not a military king. He does not use human power to fight and kill. He saves, He came to set the prisoners free and to release the captives. But this we must understand: *Jesus is a just King who will not break the physical bars that hinders your progress and freedom. But He will change you in such a way that you will respond indifferent toward the bars. He will loosens the chain and make them ineffective and no power on you.* Most of your suffering is because you are looking to the bars. You want to break and remove the bars and chains that cost your time and effort. It causes you to exhaust your feelings and torture your minds and emotion. Until you find yourself shouting to the top of your voice and extending your arms beyond the bars begging for freedom.

But the freedom in Jesus is something different. Jesus is God. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of all lords. He came to the world, born as a baby to a virgin by the Holy Spirit and become a man. ***“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)*** Jesus suffered and died on the cross to free us from the bars and chains, the effects of sins and the power of death; to give us freedom and eternal life as we believe in Him.

Believing in Jesus makes you a new man who is born of the spirit of God. A new man lives by faith and by the grace of God. The grace of God removes your ill feeling of shame, pain, inadequacy and injustices. The power of God gives you peace, joy, comfort and assurance that cancel the worries about your present life and your life in the future. The love of God humbles you and breaks your pride. He gives you patience, gentleness and kindness. The love of God turns you to accept others and every life’s circumstances teach you to adapt yourself to live with satisfaction in the new atmosphere. The grace of God removes anger from you, takes away your eagerness to use human power or evil means to change circumstances and to break the bars. The grace of God gives you wisdom to wait upon God to change your situation, and to totally depend upon Him to loosen your bars and chains.

My dear and beloved: Our cry for freedom has already been heard and Jesus Christ, by His own blood, sets us free. If God sets us free, we are free indeed.

My Prayer: *“Father God, I come before You in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord, I realize that your grace is sufficient for me. I will not use my human power to change circumstances in my life but I will wait upon You and depend only to You. Help me to enjoy my life with You, my Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray.”*
Amen.