

THE WAY TO FREEDOM

“They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority, not as teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy one of God!’ ‘Be quite!’ said Jesus sternly. ‘Come out of Him!’ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, ‘What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey Him.’ News about Him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.” (Mark 1:21-28)

What is life away from God?

1) **A life of sin:** To generally describe sin, anything that is against the written word of God is sin. **“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.” (1 John 3:4)** Sin is either thought, action, behaviour or attitude that is not only unacceptable to God but unpleasant to Him. To name a few, it can be in a form of stealing, telling lies, doing oppression and injustice, adultery and other sexual immoral acts, murder, perjury, fraud, addiction, marital unfaithfulness, fighting, quarrelling, homosexuality, witchcraft, etc. As well, sin can be the fruit of the following main sins like pride, lust, anger, laziness, envy, jealousy and greed. But, particularly the root cause is idolatry, which means worshipping other gods, that is obeying or honouring things and creatures rather than the Creator, the all-present, all-knowing, and all-powerful GOD.

2) **A life in darkness:** Living in darkness means living away from God. **“This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1John 1:5)** A life in darkness means living under the influence of the evil spirits and under the power of Satan. It is a life full of bitterness, fear, and anxiety. The devil sends the arrows of various or variable illnesses and diseases. The people living in darkness are depressed, sleepless, and they suffer a lot of psychiatric disorders. They know God but they hate the people of God. **“Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.” (1 John 2:9)**

3) **A life of discontent:** Living without contentment brings confusion in life. It is a lifestyle away from God and so trying to gratify or satisfy oneself by living in sin or darkness, a life that God is not pleased, or unpleasant to Him. For this reason, God’s anger may be manifested especially when a person follows and obeys little gods like money and human honour or power. **“The Lord will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because the evil you have done in forsaking Him.” (Deuteronomy 28:20)** **“Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.” (Deuteronomy 28:65-66)**

4) **A dead life:** A person away from God is physically living but spiritually dead. His body is alive but may be in pain, ache, tiredness and sickness. His mind is awake but disturbed, perplexed, full of

complex ideas and occupied by different kinds of problems that resist any solution. His heart is pumping but full of rage, anger and bitterness. His soul is weary and tormented by the evil one. He is moving and talking, but he is dead- a walking cadaver. He is spiritually dead because he is away from God. He has no hope and no future in this life as well in the life to come after death. The destiny of those who are away from God is the hell, the prison cell of eternal punishment.

The aforementioned points explained the situation of the world and life away from God, and the above quoted scriptures described the grip of the evil one and how Jesus gave freedom. God sent His Son Jesus to bring the people back to Him and to free them from Satan. It is Jesus who gave freedom and made the way back to God. As the passages above are dissected, we easily find the way to freedom.

- A) **Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach:** Jesus taught us how to live a life that is pleasant to God, a life away from sin. His teachings brought light to the area of darkness and doubts. Moreover, He taught not only by words but with deeds as living example to us. **“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:15)** No one will find the way to freedom without hearing or learning the teachings and instructions of Jesus.
- B) **He taught them as one who had authority, not as teachers of the law:** The teachers of the law or Pharisees were described as hypocrites. They loved to teach and stand in the synagogues but their lives were full of pride and sin. Jesus mission was to bring the people back to God. He was like a lamb, so humble and meek and without blemish offered as a sacrifice. Having no sin, He took the sins of the whole world as He died on the cross. **“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now He has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.” (Colossians 1:21-22)**
- C) **The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, ‘What is this? A new teaching—and with authority!:** The man possessed by the devil was freed as Jesus ordered the evil spirit to, **“Be quite!”** and **“Come out of him.”** Jesus has all the authority and power from God. He gives freedom to all who follow Him. He gives light and hope to all who listen to Him, and He gives authority and life to all who obey Him. The people who come in fellowship with God will receive healing, freedom, their lives are changed, and they start to see the hope and the future, the everlasting light and life.

Jesus gives freedom and eternal life. In one occasion, Jesus visited the house of Martha and Mary. Their brother Lazarus was dead and already buried. But Jesus said to Martha, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)** As the sisters believe in Him, Jesus raised their brother from death. Believing in Jesus and receiving Him as Lord and Master, He gives freedom from Satan and wonderful life with God. Jesus said, **“The thief comes only to steal and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)**

My Dear and Beloved: Do you believe this? If you believe that Jesus can free you, you will receive healing to your mind, body, soul and heart and you gain eternal life. If this is your heart’s desire you may add your voice to the voice of Martha and say, **“Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, Son of God, who was to come into the world.”** *God bless you.*

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for sins to give me eternal life. Lord I believe in your word and your promises. Lord I commit my life fully unto you. Lord freely from the following bondage _____, and release me fully so I can go forward and worship and serve you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen*