



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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I'm Free!

How would you define personal freedom? Charles Kingsley said, "There are two freedoms: the false, where man is free to do what he likes; the true, where a man is **free to do what he ought.**" That false concept of freedom is the **prideful expression** of the very **essence of sin** which is defined in 1John 3:4 as "*the transgression of the law.*" It says, "**I will do what I want**—not what God wants." Those who live like this soon **fall into the bondage** of horrible habits of lust, alcohol, drugs, etc.

Jesus Christ came into this world **to free man from sin and its bondages.** He declared, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me...to preach deliverance to the captives...to set at liberty them that are bruised*" (Luke 4:18). Speaking of Himself, Jesus said, "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*" (John 8:36). When you accept Jesus as your Savior from sin, you will be "**free indeed**" because not only will you be **free from sin**, you will be **free from the consequent bondages of sin** such as lust, hatred, anger, etc. You will be **free to do what you ought!** You will be **free to serve the Lord!** And, like slaves who have experienced **Christ's freedom even while in chains**, you will have **freedom even in the worst of circumstances!** Like Paul and Silas who were wrongly beaten and put in prison you will have **freedom to pray and sing praises unto God even before God sets you physically free** (Acts 16:24-26). With great joy you will be able to sing, "*I'm free from the fear of tomorrow, I'm free from the guilt of the past, I've traded my shackles for a glorious song. I'm free, praise the Lord, free at last.*"

"How we can experience true freedom" is one topic of the IBLP **Basic Seminar** to be held at our church **July 11-16.** For information or to register see www.iblp.org, or www.naog.ws/reg.pdf