



GROWTH TRACK

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

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GOD DESIGNED US FOR FREEDOM

You don't have to settle for "just getting by" or "coping with things."

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10-11

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

- I. There is no true freedom
- 2. Your journey to find freedom began when you

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. When you received Jesus, your spirit ______saved.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28

4. Your body _____saved.

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

5. Your soul _____saved.

"Therefore, my dear friends ...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." Philippians 2:12-13

REDEMPTION

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19

I. All of your sins are

"In him WE have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Ephesians 1:7

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that **HE LOVED US** and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10

• No more GUILT.

"...all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:24

[Justified = rendered just or innocent; "just as if I'd never sinned"]

• No more SHAME.

"Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." Romans 10:11

• No more **CONDEMNATION**.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for **THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS**." Romans 8:1

2. Physical bodies are

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing **EVERY** disease and sickness." Matthew 9:35

3. Broken hearts are _____

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalms 34:18

"Come to me, ALL you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

4. Captives and those oppressed by the devil are_____

"...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and healing ALL who were under the power of the devil..." Acts 10:38

BROKENNESS

It is possible to be saved and still be messed up! - Duane Vander Klok

The Apostle Paul said this to followers of Jesus: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm and do not let yourself be burdened by a yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1

Here are some indicators that you may be getting ripped off by the devil:

Feels guilt Abnormal fears Impatient Trouble trusting God seems distant Difficulty receiving love Rejection Rebellion Legalism Obsessive Behaviors

- Shame Sadness, depression Harsh Pride God seems angry Difficulty loving others Can't forgive others Emotional pain Immorality Negativity
- Condemnation Anxiety, worry Anger, strife Lacks self control Insecurity Unworthiness Chronic health issues Perfectionism Addictions Pride

THE DEVIL'S CHARACTER AND NATURE

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..." John 10:10a

I. The devil is a _____and a

"He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 ESV

2. His primary weapons are _____and _____.

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ..."

2 Corinthians 4:4

3. He ______us.

"When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time." Luke 4:13

4. He brings _____against us.

Revelation 12:10 refers to the devil as "the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God Day and night."

WHAT JESUS CAME TO DO

Jesus came to_____ the works of the devil.

"...For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8 NKJV

Jesus came to make dead people _____

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10b

That phrase, "to the full," is from a Greek word meaning superabundant or superior in quality. It implies that we should experience life beyond measure and be overflowing with life.

SOME KEYS TO FREEDOM

I. Our relationship with THE TRUTH affects our experience of freedom.

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32

That word "know" is the Greek word "ginosko" that we talked about last week. It implies "to know intimately by experience."

- Jesus wants to be your _____ of truth.
- Knowing the truth is more than just knowing a set of facts.

It is letting God's truth affect our perspective.
 "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7

∼ It is seeing things from God's

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." Ephesians 1:17-19

• We need to see with the eyes of our heart, not with_____ of of our head.

• We must change ______we think. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

• We were never intended to live _________to understand and figure things out for ourselves. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

2. Whatever I seek first has the power to ORGANIZE everything else in my life.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

It is not about _______to do better so you can get something from God.
Seeking first the kingdom is a ______of relationship with God.
When I seek first the kingdom, the King's ______ has over my life.

3. Freedom is not the ABSENCE of something but the PRESENCE of someone.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3:17

• The questions of freedom are not: "How do I get rid of these habits or behaviors? How do I stop thinking these thoughts?"

∼ Freedom is not just

• The question is: "How much room have I given the Spirit of God in my heart and soul so He can do His work of freedom?

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

- We _____as we are being transformed into His image.
- It is a _____
- God will finish what He started!

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6 ESV

APPLICATION: DEMOLISHING STRONGHOLDS

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Arguments and pretension:

• Things that pretend to be______ than God.

Disobedient thoughts are:

- Thoughts that do not ______ with what God says.
- Wrong patterns of thinking that are based on the_____.

We demolish strongholds – and keep them from re-forming – by getting rid of the lies we have believed and replacing them with the truth. Here is what that can look like in your life:

- I. Ask God to show you the lie you have believed.
- 2. Repent of believing the lie.
- 3. Receive God's forgiveness.
- 4. Ask God to show you the truth.
- 5. Receive the truth He shows you.
 - Meditate on the truth.
 - · See yourself or your situation the way God does.
 - Let what God says become your "new normal".

As you change what you believe, you will change what you do. Remember, as you think in your heart, so are you.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:3