

SALEM HEIGHTS

THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

HOPE IS THE EAGER ANTICIPATION AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION
OF A FUTURE GUARANTEED BY GOD.

“As we conclude our series on hope passages, we return to the gospel of John to hear Jesus talk about freedom. The Bible tells us that sin enslaves us. When we think we are in control, it is really our sinful desires that have control of us. And those desires will never lead us closer to God. But, through faith in Christ, we can be set free from the controlling power of sin to be controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit produces life in us and allows us to discern and reject sin before it ensnares us.

So the real question is this: Are you living in freedom or bondage? Christ said, “If the Son sets you free, you really will be free.” The path to true and lasting freedom is found in Christ. He is the I AM, and only in Him we are we truly free!” — Pastor Pete

“Sincere belief in the Word of Christ leads to emancipation from the tyrannical power of the evil that dwells in our members and from the dominating power of sin that rules in the customs of the world.” —

C.H. Spurgeon

John 8:30—59

Truth and Freedom

³⁰As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. ³²You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³“We are descendants of Abraham,” they answered him, “and we have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴Jesus responded, “Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. ³⁷I know you are descendants of Abraham, but you are trying to kill me because my word has no place among you. ³⁸I speak what I have seen in the presence of the Father; so then, you do what you have heard from your father.” ³⁹“Our father is Abraham,” they replied. “If you were Abraham’s children,” Jesus told them, “you would do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹You’re doing what your father does.” “We weren’t born of sexual immorality,” they said. “We have one Father—God.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn’t come on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³Why don’t you understand what I

say? Because you cannot listen to my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Who among you can convict me of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ The one who is from God listens to God's words. This is why you don't listen, because you are not from God."

Jesus and Abraham

⁴⁸ The Jews responded to him, "Aren't we right in saying that you're a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ "I do not have a demon," Jesus answered. "On the contrary, I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and judges. ⁵¹ Truly I tell you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² Then the Jews said, "Now we know you have a demon. Abraham died and so did the prophets. You say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham who died? And the prophets died. Who do you claim to be?" ⁵⁴ "If I glorify myself," Jesus answered, "my glory is nothing. My Father—about whom you say, 'He is our God'—he is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ You do not know him, but I know him. If I were to say I don't know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ The Jews replied, "You aren't fifty years old yet, and you've seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

1. What do you see about hope in this passage?
2. What does it teach us about God?
3. What does it teach us about man?
4. What should we do in light of this passage?