

 libertychurch



LIFESTYLE OF FREEDOM

LEVEL 2



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Welcome to Lifestyle of Freedom

This is more than a course, this is an opportunity to encounter the Holy Spirit as He teaches you so you can step into a new lifestyle of liberty, prosperity and victory as you live for His glory and enjoy Him and your one and only life forever.

Whether you are a NYB 'not yet believer',
A NB 'new believer' or a LTB 'long time believer' in Jesus,
Jesus commissioned His disciples to GO into all the world and make .. not
believers .. but disciples!

Disciples are more than believers they are followers and lovers of the One they
believe in ... JESUS!

To love Jesus is to be filled with Holy Spirit and to walk in intimacy with the Father
as we fulfill the mission and mandate Jesus gave us ..
to make disciples!

We are convinced that it takes a disciple to make a disciple.
So, welcome to a new Lifestyle of Freedom where you will discover and delve
into the freedom that has been purchased by Jesus for you to BE who Father
designed you to be with the confidence and authority to DO what Holy Spirit has
empowered you to do with your one & only life.

We are certain that as you live for His glory you will enjoy Him and enjoy your life
forever.

In this 10 week course, Level 1 (10 weeks) & Level 2 (10 Weeks), you are investing,
strengthening & accelerating the health of your soul for a life of purpose and
significance!

John 8:31,32 "Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, 'if you abide in my
word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set
you free.'"

Week 1: Session 1

Why breaking free?

Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. 2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all..."

Galatians 5:17 "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."

TPT "...then you're acting as though Christ is not enough 3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is required to obey the whole law. 4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. "

TPT "4 If you want to be made right with God by fulfilling the obligations of the law, you have cut off more than your flesh—you have cut yourselves off from Christ and have fallen away from the revelation of grace! 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is FAITH expressing itself through love."

Confession of sin in the New Testament

Neither Paul nor Jesus taught extensively in the New Testament on confession of sin.

- Paul is the major contributor to NT & early church and it would have been very irresponsible to not teach on confessing sin as extensively as many of our preachers do today!

Out of 27 mentions of confession in New Testament only twice is it in regard to sin specifically.

56% ... 15 x Confessing Jesus is Lord
30% ... 8 x Statement of fact/truth
7% ... 2x John the Baptist
7% ... 2x wrt sin.

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and His word is not in us."

- John is refuting Gnostic heresy that denied the existence of sin. Gnostics believed man's problem was ignorance and thus salvation came by a

secret knowledge (gnosis).

- Gnostics also did not believe in the material physical life of Jesus. Thus John in 1 John 1:1 is at pains to point out, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life."

1 John 2:12 To the church, John makes the point '...my children your sins HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.'

The other NT reference is in James 5:15-16

"And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

James 5:15-16 ESV

- James points out that the Prayer of Faith will make sick well. IF he has sinned he will be FORGIVEN. 1st HEALING then FORGIVENESS because BOTH are in REDEMPTION...SOZO!
- Then ...therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be ??????? ... FORGIVEN ... NO ... HEALED !!! ... for the PRAYER of a **Righteous Man** is powerful and avails much ... the same men who CONFESSED and PRAYED are, therefore, the RIGHTEOUS men praying.

Jesus says in Matthew 9:4-5...which is easier to forgive sin or say 'rise up and walk?'

Hebrews 9:12 "12 He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Hebrews 10:11-14 "And every priest stands daily at His service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

- This PRIEST offered ONCE for ALL TIME ONE SACRIFICE for SINS FOREVER / FOR ALL TIME / IN PERPETUITY *gk Dienekes

The power of Communion:

Bread

Cup

Week 2: Session 1

Divine order of Faith: Make a quality decision

1. Choose to make quality decisions to overcome all strongholds and challenges by FAITH!

Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live."

When we choose FAITH we align our decisions with the Father's and draw on the resources of heaven!

Joshua 24:15 "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Hebrews 11:5-6 & 16 "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him ... 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city."

2. Gather your evidence.

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

AMP "Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]."

- The promises of God are your "deeds of entitlement".
- What promises – Scriptures/Word – are you standing on?
- The natural mind says 'seeing is believing' but the spirit led mind of FAITH says 'believing is seeing'.

1 Corinthians 2:14 " The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

Hebrews 6:13 "Now when God made a promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater than himself, he swore an oath on his own integrity to keep the promise as sure as God exists!"

2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

The Berean believers were complimented for their diligence in searching the scriptures.

Acts 17:11 "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."

1 John 5:15-16 "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."

The WORD of God is the WILL of God!

Matthew 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Psalms 33:11 "The counsel of the Lord – WORD -- stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."

Psalms 40:8 "I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

2 Peter 1:21 "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Hebrews 10:35-36 "35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. "

Recognise – destructive habits and behaviours.

Repent – take responsibility and acknowledge the difference between what you may have thought was ‘normal’ in light of God’s truth and change the way you think about. Confess any sin, accept Father’s forgiveness and ask Holy Spirit to empower you to walk in freedom while you change the narrative in your life and family.

Repent = *Metanoieo Meta = change Nous = mind / understanding ..to metamorphosis .. to change your thinking / mindset!

Group Discussion:

Listed below are some strongholds. Circle those that pertain to you personally, both past and present. Underline those you have identified – seen, recognise, experienced, know of – in your family ie. in the lives of your parents, grandparents, step parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, etc.

Idolatry: – materialism, love of money, worship of people, self-worship and any others:

Witchcraft, satanism & the occult: – astrology, fortune –telling, new age, crystals, Scientology, séances, hypnosis / self-hypnosis, ESP, psychic healing, out of body experiences, Hinduism, cults, Buddhism, Psychic beliefs & practices, Eastern religions, secret orders / lodges, illuminati, horoscopes, Voodoo, black magic, wicca, medicine man/woman, sangoma,- Santeria, rituals not rooted in scripture, perverted satanic ritual abuse, superstitions, dungeons & dragons, any games rooted in the occult, spells, occultic literature, mantras, gossip, glassy-glassy, ancestral worship or communication, ouija boards, manipulation, other:

Sexual sin: Fornication (sex before marriage), adultery (sex outside of marriage), pornography, rape, incest, lust, masturbation, homosexuality, bestiality (sexual acts with animals), pedophilia (sexual acts with minors), exhibitionism (flaunting nakedness and sexuality in public), sexual fantasy, perverse language, other:

Addictions: Illegal drugs, alcohol abuse, smoking, prescription drug dependency, food dependency (overeating), eating disorders – bulimia, anorexia, music, media (TV, movies, gossip tabloids, social media) other:

Negative thought patterns: Regarding yourself or others, toward God, His people, the church, the Bible), pessimism (negative outlook & behaviour), double-mindedness, doubts, skepticism, cynicism, inability to trust, prejudice, racism, bigotry, anti-Semitic (hostile or prejudice against Jewish people), malice, other:

Pride: Self-righteous, selfish, self-focused, vanity, arrogance, critical spirit, judgmental, destructively competitive, other:

Fear: Fear of failure, fear of succeeding, fear of rejection, fear of other’s opinions, anxiety, worry, despair, other:

Deceit & Dishonesty: Lying, cheating, stealing, white lies, exaggeration, half-truths, other:

Rebellion: Disobedience, disrespect, stubbornness, default distrust and rejection of authority figures, other:

Anger: Hatred, bitterness, resentment, rage, revenge, wishing death on others or self, unforgiveness, strife, other:

Violence: Attempted suicide, homicide, mental abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, self-mutilation (cutting, etc.), abortion, rape, other:

Physical and or mental: Depression, hypochondria (fear of falling ill), physical illness, disease, bipolar, obsessive-compulsive disorders, other:

Broken relationships: Divorce, fatherlessness, abandonment, adoption, other:

Prayer time:

Homework:

In your group time start identifying strongholds in your life.

After group time choose a time in the next 5 days to journal and pray through the following questions one question a day to thoroughly recognise, repent and confront these strongholds. Spend time each day extending and receiving forgiveness so you can walk free of what Jesus purchased for you at Calvary!

Week 3: Session 2

Finding your Freedom: A closed heart

A closed, hard or 'walled-in' heart is often a sign of a defence or protection measure to guard our hearts from being hurt again. The result is a callousness and 'closedness' toward Father God and others.

Jeremiah 4:3-4 "3 This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: 'Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns. 4 O people of Judah and Jerusalem, surrender your pride and power. Change your hearts before the Lord, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins.' "

1. What makes up a 'hard' heart?

- Past hurts, betrayal, disappointment & ensuing bitterness,

Luke 6:27,28 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. 28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you."

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

- Often when we are offended we hold on to the offence... we rehearse it in our minds ... instead of reversing it by releasing the offender.

Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."

2 Corinthians 2 "10 Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

Mark 11:25 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgression."

Luke 17:3-4 "If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'repent,' forgive him."

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Holding on to offences is tantamount to planting bitter seed. This often is expressed in the form of 'inner vows' we make ... by establishing pacts and promises with ourselves based on our judgments, feelings or assumptions. These 'inner vows' are 'fleshly', natural attempts to protect and preserve our hearts out of fear of being hurt again.

- Inner vows can become a pattern that cause bad relational habits that are meant to protect us but end up hurting us and our relationships.
- 'Self -protection' is often our plan and is an indication that we no longer trust Father's plan to protect us.

2. Open up your heart once again.

- Identify 'roots of bitterness', judgments and 'inner-vows' you have made often inadvertently.
- **Forgive** those who have mistreated and offended you and **release** those you have built walls against. You can refuse to give people permission to hurt you again without building walls around your heart that keep you imprisoned in pain and bitterness.
- Ask God to forgive you for attempting to replace God as the true judge and for failing to trust Him and His plan of protection.

3. Promise of a new heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Week 4: Session 1

Divine order of Faith: Success through meditation

Choose to meditate on God's Word.

Joshua 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

- Your ears are one of two natural gateways to your heart.
- To meditate means: to reflect, to moan, to mutter, to ponder, to make a quiet sound, to contemplate a text as one repeats the words.
- The Hebrew word for meditate (haga) means to dwell upon the scriptures; to quietly repeat them in a soft, droning sound while utterly abandoning any outside distractions. It also means to rehearse in one's mind.
- The WORD we observe is the WORD we become and do – bringing success.
- Meditation is not a mystic Eastern religious observance it is God's strategy to build the 'eye' of FAITH. If we can see the invisible we can have the impossible.
- Meditating on the Word focus our faculties on the pertinence, power and promises of God in training our minds to default to the revelation of God's truth that is often in stark opposition to man's bereft philosophies and fleeting values.

You gravitate toward what you meditate on.

Genesis 11:4-6 "4 Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.' 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, 'Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.' "

- What you can imagine or 'see' in your heart or 'mind's eye' has great power to conquer what we previously thought as impossible.

Genesis 30:37-46 "Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. 38 He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, 39 the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. 40 And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock."

How to plant the WORD in our heart through meditation.

Psalms 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."

- Meditation also means to speak silently to oneself.

Matthew 9:21 "...for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.' "

Ephesians 5:18 "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart."

- There is power in speaking out loud the WORD of God to yourself.

Psalms 77:12 "I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds."

Psalms 143:5 "I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done."

Psalms 37:3 "Keep trusting in the Lord and do what is right in his eyes. Fix your heart on the promises of God, and you will dwell in the land, feasting on his faithfulness."

Why are we so afraid to forgive?

- We may think that to forgive equates to agreeing with the offender's behaviour.
- We may believe the person who hurt us does not deserve forgiveness.
- We fear the discomfort of revisiting memories and past wounds.
- We may think forgiveness is the same as reconciliation.

When you choose forgiveness, you choose freedom.

- True forgiveness is personal self-sacrifice.
- Regardless of our own opinions, there must be will full obedience to do God's will God's way. We have no option other than forgiveness.

Matthew 6:14 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Luke 7:47 "Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

Lay it all down today.

- Identify the people in your life, both past and present, whom you have held in unforgiveness.
- Change your thinking about your ongoing unforgiveness.
- Release those who have hurt and offended you, including yourself. You may find writing them a forgiveness letter ... that you may never send but that may solidify your decision to release them!

Group Exercise:

Colour your years:

Insert age blocks :

Block 1 to 10 from left to right.. can be two rows L-R
Block 1 (0-5) Block 2 (6-10) Block 3 (11-14) Block 4 (15-21) Block 5 (22-30) Block 6 (31-41) Block 7 (42-51) Block 8 (52-61) Block 9 (62 - 71) Block 10 (72 +)

Colour in each segment with the colour that best describes that period of your life.

- Purple – Fear, dread, anxiety, worry
- Orange – Anger, rage, strong displeasure
- Black – depression, down hearted, low spirit, deep sadness
- Blue – bitterness, harsh & crude attitude toward people, things or situations.

Label each segment with a person(s) name you feel is responsible for what happened.

Discuss with your group two segments of your life that have affected you most dramatically.

Homework:

Looking back on this week's exercise and the names that have appeared here AND in your past journal entries choose a person to whom you want to write your first letter.

Steps 1 & 2 (below) should be completed on separate days. Do not skip these steps.

Once you get to day 3, however, you may prefer to finish your 'final' letter (steps 3-5) in one day if you feel ready. Again, do not skip steps 1 & 2.

Step 1 – In a private journal, write a 'venting' letter to the person you selected. In it describe the feeling (past & present) you have toward them and why. Your letter can be as long as you wish. Remember to be real and honest. The letter is only for you and God to see.

Step 2 – Take your 'venting' letter into your private prayer time. Read it out aloud. Tell Jesus you are willing to forgive them for good... with His help of course. Ask God to heal and restore you as you forgive in faith.

Step 3 – Without referring to your initial 'venting' letter, begin another draft. Address it to your offender and explain why it is being written. E.g. "Dear _____ I am writing this letter because _____ "

Step 4 – Be specific about how the person's behaviour has affected your life. (e.g. relationships, self-esteem, etc.) If your letter is asking for forgiveness, take responsibility for the damage and pain you have caused.

Step 5 – Close the letter in your own words. In doing so, stay focused on forgiving and releasing them. Your goal in writing the letter is to let the offence go and for you to be free... for good!

Beware! We don't recommend you read, send or deliver any letters to your offenders!

Faith and speaking were designed by God to change things.

When we speak HEALING we are aligning our WORDS with God's WORD, which is God's will, to SHAPE what God has CREATED.

- We are made in God's image! Our words have power to SHAPE what God has CREATED.

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

- We are living today in what we spoke yesterday, and tomorrow is waiting for what you say today.
- It is not what others say that is the deciding factor about the trajectory of your life it is what you say.

Faith without obedience is dead.

James 2:15-17, 20 "15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead... 20 Oh foolish man don't you know that faith without works is dead."

- We need to walk in wisdom.
- Wisdom comes through - observing others, Holy Spirit's promptings & leading, the WORD, leaders God has appointed and life experience.

Isaiah 1:19 "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."

Ephesians 1:17-19 "17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might."

Pray James 1:2-8 daily for a few weeks to get it into your spirit.

"2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Patience is the ability to grow stronger the longer we wait.

Romans 4:17-21 "As it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations' —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, 'So shall your offspring be.' 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised."

Hebrews 6:11-18 "11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, 'Surely I will bless you and multiply you.' 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us."

Genesis 2:18 –24 “18 Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’ 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6:15–20 “15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, ‘The two will become one flesh.’ 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Examples of unhealthy soul ties:

- Unhealthy relationships, past unresolved relationships or those with whom you had intimate encounters with food, money & shopping, sex deviation & pornography, alcohol & drugs, approval.

Breaking unhealthy soul ties

- Recognize the soul tie and the void you have been trying to fill with it.
- Repent (change your thinking) for seeking and craving counterfeit and illegitimate affections.
- Release yourself and others:
 - o receive Father’s forgiveness and let go of any associated shame, guilt and condemnation.
 - o forgive those involved and complicit with you.
- Wean yourself from the comfort and reminders of the soul tie.
 - o Withdraw from the environments, attachments (photos, texts, FB stalking) and memories.

- Replace the unhealthy soul tie with:
 - o building new healthy relationships, practices and thought patterns, such as meditating on Gods promises)
 - o create health boundaries

Group Discussion

Check (tick off) the soul ties you relate with currently: TB=Tick box

- Overly dependent relationship with _____
- Excessive time spent on or watching social media, YouTube,
- TV, Movies, cell phone, games etc.
- Sport / Physical fitness
- Spending money / shopping
- Education / knowledge/ status/ reputation/ position
- Soap operas
- Novels
- Pornography
- Sex
- Alcohol / drugs (illegal & Prescription)
- Isolation
- Self – mutilation
- Abusive behaviour
- Anger / rage / swearing
- Control / manipulation
- Approval & acceptance seeking
- Excessive working / career pursuit
- Sleep
- Fantasizing
- Food / drink

Choose one of the above to discuss with your group

1. What is the soul tie providing for you?
2. When does your flesh crave it the most?
3. What discomfort can you expect as you wean yourself from it?
4. Name some practical things you can do to get you through this weaning process.

Week 6: Session 1

Liberty's vision for Liberty

Exodus 3:7-8 "7 Then the Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.' "

Exodus 9:1 "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews. 'Let my people go, that they may serve me.' "

Matthew 28:18-20 "18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' "

Galatians 5:13 "13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. "

Habakkuk 2:2 "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it."

The Mission Vision and path to Liberty

Our Mission is to live for God's glory and to enjoy Him forever.

Our Vision is determined by what we expect to see.

The Big 5

1. We see disciples who make disciples.
2. We see leaders who raise leaders.
3. We see a church of multiple thousands in multiple nations.
4. We see righteousness & justice as foundational to all we do.
5. We see the 7 gateways of society infused with Kingdom values.

Our focus starts with discipleship and the journey for every new believer and new partner* at Liberty starts with GROWTH TRACK. This is the ideal foundation for a new season in anyone's life:

Growth Track will steer believers to their next best steps on the pathway to Freedom. This usually prioritises faithfulness to God's house on Sundays through **worshiping** with the family and **servicing** in a Dream Team as well as joining a **Life Group** at Liberty.

Our **Lifestyle of Freedom** course is the next 'Discipleship booster' we encourage every family member* at Liberty to experience. It is here that we lay Biblical foundations for spiritual growth and see breakthrough, healing, deliverance and calling ignited as each believer goes deeper in their faith. So vital is this 24 week course (Level 1 + Level 2) that it is a prerequisite to participating in any form of leadership responsibility at Liberty. Our expectation is that those who graduate from LOF will walk in a new level of authority in their personal lives and add significant value to our **Sunday experiences, Life Groups** and the many **ministries** in and from Liberty that impact people's lives for God's glory.

Our vision for the next step in discipleship and leadership at Liberty is our very own Bible College "**Liberty Leadership Institute**" we are planning to launch in January 2023.

* Everyone who joins Liberty Church is considered a family member of the church and a partner of the non-profit organisation. Constitutionally the voting members are the Elders of the church.

Our goal is that every believer embarks on a life-long adventure of becoming more like Jesus...discipleship...and as part of that adventure to be a witness and warrior believing for, praying for and contending for the salvation & freedom of those who are Not Yet Believers!

Group Discussion:

What is the next step you believe God is calling you to take in your discipleship adventure?

Write down the name of 3 people who are Not Yet Believers whom you will start praying for, reaching out to and inviting in to a journey of Freedom.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework:

Pray for those who don't yet know the FREEDOM of living for Jesus!

To be a disciple who makes disciples we are commissioned to reach out to those who are yet to discover the beauty and the power of the Gospel.

- Every believer / disciple is a witness and a soul winner.

Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and He who wins souls is wise."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- The person who prays, invites or brings someone to the Lord is responsible for taking care of them and encouraging them on their discipleship journey by getting them on the discipleship path at Liberty.
 - o Attend Growth Track & Lifestyle of Freedom with them.
 - o Invite them to Life Group, Thrive, Dream Team.
 - o Help baptise them.
 - o Call them, meet them at Church or online.

The sooner they build relationships with believers and position themselves to grow the greater the possibilities for them to experience true FREEDOM

What does it mean to establish a new believer in their faith?

- Our goal is for every new believer to embrace Jesus, not only as Saviour, but LORD on the Discipleship path en route to them being set FREE from old mindsets and strongholds.
- The key with every new believer is relationship and rhythm.

What does it mean to be a disciple?

- To be a disciple is to become more like Jesus in character not just calling, in maturity not just ministry!
- Character formation in terms of our values, attitudes and who we are is often a battle as our flesh often rebels against the leading of the Spirit and the spiritual leadership God has put in our lives.
- Simply reading Christian books and listening to teaching online can often be a 'cop out' or avoidance of real spiritual growth and character development as Christlikeness is forged in relationships that expose us to love, accountability and responsibility.

Discipleship and multiplication

- Jesus' model was to reproduce himself through the 12, the 72, the 120 and the world.
- When we are committed to a group of 12 – Life Group, Dream Team – when we disciple 3-12 people who disciple 3-12 people the growth of God's Kingdom becomes exponential!
- Every Life Group Leader's goal is to disciple 12 people who will one day disciple 12 people.
- Every person in your Life Group is a potential Leader of a Life Group.
- God is a God of multiplication and the more we multiply the more dominion we bring to our world for God's glory!
- 12 Disciples that become 12 groups = 144 = 1728 = 20,732 = 248,832 = 2,985,984

Group Discussion:

1. Share progress or prayer points with the group of those you are reaching out to, those whose names you wrote down last week.
2. Can you see yourself leading a group of 12 one day?
3. Pray as a group for all those NYB you are believing God for.

Our thoughts are like seeds we plant in the 'seedbed' or garden of our heart that ultimately produce the fruit of our lives.

Negative thoughts create negative results.

What we sow into our hearts is what we will reap in our lives and the harvest is always greater than the seed that was initially planted.

The enemy tempts us with predominantly two main thoughts, those of FEAR and PERVERSION.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

- Fear causes us to doubt God and perversion twists the truth of God.
- Renewing our minds is sowing thoughts of love (valuing, worshiping and honoring Father) instead of fear and thoughts of truth instead of perversion.

1 John 4:18 "but perfect love casts out fear."

Deuteronomy 22:9 "Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled."

How do we break mental strongholds?

- Recognise the thoughts of fear and perversion that you have planted in your heart.
- Repent (change your _____) of planting mixed seeds of fear, perversion into your heart and brain.
- Replace: take back control of your mind and align what you THINK, FEEL and CHOOSE with God's truth to initiate 'Brain surgery' and reap FREEDOM and God's will for what is left of your one and only life.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Proverbs 23:7 "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Group Discussion:

Check all thoughts that apply to you to discuss with your coach and group before taking them to God in prayer.

Thoughts of FEAR:

- Fear of God not loving or accepting me as I truly am
- Fear of embarrassment
- Fear of financial problems & lack
- Fear of becoming a victim of crime
- Fear of commitment
- Fear of conflict with others
- Fear of being or becoming homosexual
- Fear of being rejected by people
- Fear of losing my salvation
- Fear of getting divorced
- Fear of pain / sickness
- Fear of losing my mind
- Fear of never getting married
- Fear of satan or demonic activity
- Fear of failure / success
- Fear of death, mine / others
- Fear of: _____

Thoughts of perversion and their consequences (strongholds):

- Recognising the thoughts of fear & perversion you have planted in your heart.
- Liking nice things has become covetousness and materialistic
- Eating has become gluttony
- Generosity has become wastefulness
- Caution has become fear
- Sharing news has become gossip
- Leisure has become laziness
- Frustration has become losing control
- Same-sex friendships has become homosexuality
- Sexual freedom has become immorality
- Health self image has become pride / vanity
- Self-protection has become lying / deceit
- Hobbies / work / career / sport / gaming has become addictive / obsessive
- Financial success has become greed / arrogance / independent spirit
- Physical attraction has become lust
- Excellence has become perfectionism
- Accomplishment has become pride / arrogance
- Other: _____

God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.' Noah became drunk and lay naked in his tent."

- Ham saw the situation and spread the news.
- Shem and Japheth heard the news and chose to spread a garment over their father.
- Ham saw a drunkard.
- Shem and Japheth chose to see a covered father.
- Shem and Japheth didn't ignore the issue but dealt with it by covering it with grace so their perception of their father didn't change.
- Honour engages the issue but covers the person.
- Honour doesn't allow action to determine perception.
- Dishonour birth's Canaan.

Luke 4:22-30 (ESV)

"22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' 23 And he said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself. What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.' 24 And he said, 'Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.' 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away."

- Jesus stands and proclaims His mission from the book of Isaiah.
- At first everyone is marveling and wonders at his words.
- Then they remember Him as Joseph's son.
- They remind themselves they grew up with him.
- They saw a son of Joseph instead of saviour of humanity.
- Their vision determined their speech and their speech directed the affection of their heart.
- They honoured the person according the perception they had.
- Their chosen perception determined the level of honour they could give and robbed them of miracles they could receive.
- Jesus' identity and mission wasn't impacted by the lack of honour but His effectiveness in the moment was.
- What we know about people can sometimes get in the way of the honour we should show them.

- The process in this passage is as follows:
 - they perceived Jesus.
 - they spoke about Jesus.
 - they chose how to relate to Jesus (lack of honour).
- Often what we choose to see and say will direct the attitude of our hearts towards others.
- Honour is a vehicle for God to release things in your life through the authority of another.

Jesus' Baptism
Matthew 3:13 – 17
Mark 1: 9 – 11
Luke 3: 21- 22

- He allows John to baptise him even though Jesus is the Son of God and John knows it.
- Jesus is thus submitting to a process through his baptism.
- As Jesus comes out the water:
- The Holy Spirit descends as a dove and hovers.
- The Father speaks and affirms Jesus.
- The same trio that was present at the creation moment come together again but this time Jesus honours the will of the father in a way Adam and Eve couldn't. Adam and Eve couldn't honour God about a tree but Jesus was obedient all the way to a tree and honoured his father to death.
- Jesus honouring and obedience of a process through to the end resulted salvation for everyone.
- Mutual honour in the Trinity.
- Honour and obedience restored what disobedience and dishonour stole.
- If within the Trinity there is mutual honour and submission how much more should there be mutual honour and submission in the church.
- We can and should honour both people and processes.

4. People

- Honour is to be directed towards people.
 - Honour needs to be general as well as specific. We can honour crowds as well as individuals.
 - Cover the person while not ignoring issues.
 - Honour does not ignore the issues.
-
-

5. Processes

- Honour process as well as people.
 - Honour time set for meetings.
 - Honour processes of communications.
 - Honour deadlines.
 - Withholding honour from a process is withholding honour from the author of the process.
-
-

6. Positions

- What positions need to be honoured?
 - Position of authority.
 - Relational positions.
 - Covenantal positions.
 - How do you refer to people?
-
-

7. Moments

- Honouring moments honours the people present in those moments.
 - Bring energy.
 - Be present.
 - Be prepared.
 - Be alert.
 - Be aware of what is needed.
 - Be aware of what is being said.
-
-

Abusing Honour

- Honour is not control.
- Honour is not manipulation.
- Honour does not destroy relationships or keep people apart.
- Honour does not keep people down.
- Honour is not a vehicle for cliques to be established.
- Honour is not about manipulation to get what you want through manipulating through others.
- Honour can be a tool to change perceptions of others.
- Honour is not about replication.
- If honour is about perception, it can be faked by being only outward.
- If honour is about what we say about people it can be faked by what say about people in front of their faces.
- If honour is an attitude of the heart we can try.

Week 8: Session 2

Authority of the Believer: Know your position – Part 1

Salvation repositions you.

- When you come to salvation you are immediately delivered from the power / authority of Satan's kingdom

Colossians 1:13 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."

- We have been given authority to disciple nations. Matthew 28:18-20
- Christ's victory over Satan and the Kingdom of darkness on the cross is our victory.

1 John 3:8b "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

1 Corinthians 15 "45 Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ... 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven."

Salvation secures that we are seated with Christ

Ephesians 2:5 "Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved — 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- We are seated in heavenly places a place of Authority.

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Ephesians 4 "11 And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and

held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

- There is no disconnect between the head and the body of Christ when it comes to Authority.

Ask Father to open your eyes to the authority you have as a believer.

- This is not intellectual assent it is a spiritual revelation.

Ephesians 1:16-23 "16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might 20 that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Colossians 2:15 "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

It is now our responsibility to deal with Satan.

Ephesians 6:10-18 "10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."

- What are the 7 aspects of the armour we have in our arsenal to exercise authority? (Circle them in Ephesians 6)

Week 9: Session 1

Authority of the Believer: Know your position: Part 2

Know your position in Christ

Ephesians 2:1-7 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

- Our IDENTITY before believing in Jesus was bound up in our flesh – pursuit of convenience and comfort. (the god of this age)
- Even when we were held captive to our IDENTITY, Jesus had secured a guarantee of LIFE together with Him, made possible by grace, that only required our faith as the single ‘ingredient’, to activate salvation. A salvation that seats us WITH Him in heavenly places.
- The power of the cross and the act of communion is not in the morbid refection of a ‘defeat motif’ but in the jubilant consequence of resurrection for Jesus and for us!
- The Cross is a sign of victory in Jesus defeating the devil and all His weapons of guilt, shame, condemnation, sickness, death & destruction in securing righteousness for all who believe in Him!

This righteousness is our new IDENTITY.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

We are called to reign in Life

Romans 5:17 ‘For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

- Our Authority to reign is embedded in our willingness to embrace His grace and receive the gift of Righteousness.’

- Our Authority is augmented and established within the unity exercised in the activity of the Body of Christ.
- We need each other and we need YOU!

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 “12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.”

Authority in spiritual warfare.

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- Our Authority is established in our surrender, submission and yieldedness to Holy Spirit.
- We often are waiting for God to deal with the devil. We resist the devil, not God, He has defeated the devil.

Romans 8:37-39 “37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Week 9: Session 2

Authority of the Believer: God always has a plan – Part 3

In the Beginning

Genesis 1:26 “26 Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ ”

- Image & likeness ... INTIMACY Authority
- Likeness Heb. = Demuth/ Damah ... includes to THINK LIKE
- Dominion Heb. = radah. Prevail against; to dominate; reign; rule over; to LEAD!!!!

Psalms 8:4-8 “What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings (Elohim...the God) and crowned him with glory (Kabod) and honour. 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.”

Notice at all the indications of AUTHORITY and LEADERSHIP

- Created a little lower than God.
- Crowned: with Kabod = beauty, brilliance, significance, splendour great value & worth.
- Dominion over: When we pray, speak, declare & decree we bring redemption and restoration to SHAPE what God has CREATED!

Temptation and the Fall

Genesis 2:16-17 “16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’ ”

Genesis 3:1-13 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.”

He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the

trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden’, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ 4 But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ 11 He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ 12 The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.’ 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ ”

- The enemy defeats us when we doubt God’s Word.
- Adam & Eve’s disobedience leads to a loss of Authority. Broken relationships, fractured feelings & impoverished perspective.
- Notice the blame game: first sign of not taking responsibility.

The power of atonement

Genesis 3:15 “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

- This is God’s decree for Satan... we have AUTHORITY, before the cross, to crush his head.. and since Jesus victory over Satan at Calvary we have AUTHORITY to OVERCOME and CRUSH the enemy.

1 John 2:13 “I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.”

Romans 16:20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”

Genesis 3:20-21 “Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. 21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

- Adam's response to God's judgment is to **speak LIFE** by naming his wife **Eve** Hawwah = LIFE GIVER
- This was the first shedding of blood to COVER sin, a sign and foretaste of the sinless blood of Jesus that will COVER (atone) for ALL sin FOREVER.

Hebrews 10:12-14 "12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

- **All have sinned** Romans 3:23 "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- **God is Holy** Psalm 99:5 "Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is He!"
- **There is a chasm caused by sin between God and every sinner** Isaiah 59:2 "...your iniquities have made separation between you and your God."
- The outcome of sin is death Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **The only possible payment for sin is DEATH / BLOOD** Hebrews 9:22 "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."
- Man lost his authority through disobedience and broken relationship with God.
- Jesus shed His sinless blood to pay the price for our sin..

Galatians 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.' "

- He not only died FOR you but AS you. He became what He was NOT sin so that if we believe in Him we can become what we could never be without Him!

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 "20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

- We have been redeemed (purchased) from the slave market of sin.

Revelations 12:11 "And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

Colossians 2:10-15 "10 ...and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ... 12 having been buried with him in baptism, 13 God made (us) alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him."

Matthew 28:18-20 "18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Group Discussion:

We have studied again the Gospel. Good news of our Freedom from sin and certain death, eternal separation from God.

1. What have learnt to appreciate about the power and simplicity of the Gospel tonight?
2. If tomorrow one of the NYB's you are praying for says, "Okay I am so ready to give my life to Jesus. Just explain to me what He did for me" Can you confidently share the gospel with them?

Homework:

This week write out a paragraph of what you would say to your friend in sharing the Gospel and practice it so it flows from you with confidence.

Week 10: Session 2

Authority of the believer: Kingdom dominion & boldness

1. Understanding and operating in the kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:10

Revelations 17:14

- Kingdom is the King's domain – we are ambassadors of the King of all Kings and represent him 24/7.
- You are a king under the King of all Kings.
- We are called to exercise authority where ever the kingdom of darkness is prevalent.

Matthew 12:26-30 "26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. 30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Luke 10:8-9 "8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' "

Luke 10:17-20 "17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' 18 And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' "

2. Pray for boldness to use the authority in that name then believe that you receive it.

Acts 4:8-20 "8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus

Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead— by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.' 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, 'What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.' 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.' "

- The enemy uses FEAR to keep us from exercising power and authority!

Acts 4:29-31 "29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."

- Power (dunamis) – Energy, dynamite, great force, explosiveness, great strength and ability.

Acts 16:16-18 "16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.' 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour."

Proverbs 28:1 "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion."

Group Discussion

In what area of your life do you lack boldness?

What are you going to DO in next 7 days to exercise your God given authority?

Pray for each other.

