

## Biblical “Liberty”

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by Wayne Goff

**Luke 4:18** ~ “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.**” Jesus came to set people free from the bondage of sin.

**Galatians 5:1** ~ “Stand fast therefore in the **liberty** by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” One can be in spiritual bondage by believing and practicing false doctrine.

**Galatians 5:13** ~ “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.” Much like Paul warned in Romans 6, we should not continue in sin that grace may abound! Likewise, do not use your privilege of forgiveness as an opportunity to live a sinful life, but rather repent and live a new life.

**James 1:25** ~ “But he who looks into **the perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” There is no greater freedom than that offered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ! One is free from the bondage of sin. One is free from the anxious fears of the unbelieving world. One is free from the bondage of guilt and regret. One is free from the blinding ignorance and superstitions of men.

**2 Peter 2:19** ~ “While they promise them **liberty**, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.” Beware of those who claim to offer “**liberty**” while enslaving those who follow them! Such is the state of those who proclaim “once saved, always saved” and those who think “grace” is a constant forgiveness even while they continue in sin!

Interestingly enough, the Greek word translated “**liberty**” also means “remission” and is so translated in reference to one’s “remission of sins.” Indeed, once sins have been “remitted” (let go, released, forgiven), one is free indeed, **John 8:32**!

“**Liberty**” defined in our English dictionaries means “the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one’s way of life, behavior, or political views.” Some consider the Gospel to be *restrictive*, but in reality the Gospel changes one’s way of thinking, aligns his thoughts to be in harmony with God’s, and permits one to freely, willingly and happily become as “free” as God ever intended him to be! Remember, it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps, Jeremiah 10:23.

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