

THE BOOK OF JOHN
THE GIFT OF FREEDOM

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. JOHN 8:31-36 TNIV

1. We are blind to the bars around us

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" JOHN 8:33 TNIV

Sin is a prison whether we see it or not!

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit... He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free... Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. LUKE 4:14-20 TNIV

2. We are ignorant to the power of sin over us

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." JOHN 8:34 TNIV

People overestimate the power of personal integrity and underestimate power of sin

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— ROMANS 5:12 NASB

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each of you is tempted when you are dragged away by your own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. JAMES 1:13-15 TNIV

3. Jesus is the only key that sets us free

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. JOHN 8:31-36 TNIV

I have two choices in this life...

I can remain a slave to sin and suffer and die

OR

I can submit my life to Christ and become his slave and be saved

You are my friends if you do what I command. JOHN 15:14 TNIV

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. JOHN 15:10 TNIV

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ROMANS 6:17-22 TNIV