

The Way of the Lord

3. Jesus Came To Free Me From WHAT? (Part 1)

We brought up in our last video segment that ALL of us are born with a sin nature in our soul. Babies may look cute on the OUTSIDE, but deep INSIDE we come into this world totally self-centered. Implanted within us is a desire to SIN.

How does this biblical truth make you feel—that you were born WANTING to sin? Is this how you see yourself? God's Word leaves no doubt about how BENT each of us is to go our own way, and to do our own thing:

- *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9).*
- *“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me” (Psalms 51:5).*
- *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).*

Unless you INTERNALIZE the reality that you were born with a desire to sin, you'll NEVER come to the point in your life when you experience SORROW for your sins. You won't see any need for FORGIVENESS from God, and you certainly won't appreciate what Jesus DID for you on the cross. Until you HATE your sin, you CAN'T value WHO Jesus is. Nor can you grasp the depth of His loving sacrifice on your behalf.

Let's see from Scripture how those who FIRST put their trust in Jesus responded when the Apostle Peter confronted THEM about their sin:

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call’” (Acts 2:36-39).

These were people who KNEW God's law from the Older Testament, the only Bible there was then. They also understood their hearts were corrupt and that they were prone to sin. So Peter's words GRIEVED their hearts about their sins. Yet, they were also filled with JOY to find that Jesus had paid the penalty for them. We need that same sorrow over OUR sins... AND wholehearted gratefulness to Jesus.

The people Peter spoke to understood the depth of their sin because God's Law in the Hebrew Scriptures was familiar to them. But so many people today DON'T BELIEVE that God's law applies to them. Let's see what our LORD JESUS says about the Law, and why God's Law is important to US.

- *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to complete them [to make their meaning full]” (Matthew 5:17).*
- *“Therefore the Law was our tutor to BRING US TO CHRIST, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24).*

Our God has never done away with His Law! Instead, He wants each of us to USE the commands of His Law so we can understand how greatly we’ve SINNED against His holiness. THEN with a grateful heart we can turn to Jesus for what ONLY He can do — pay the death penalty our sins deserve. AND, our Lord Jesus also can SET US FREE from our slavery to sin and Satan.

This FREEDOM is something Jesus wants His followers to experience while we’re still alive on earth. Let’s look at the nature of this freedom.

- *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to DESTROY the devil’s work” (1John 3:8b).*
- *“So if the Son SETS YOU FREE, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).*
- *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM” (2Corinthians 3:17).*

Demonic oppression isn’t a rare situation, either when Jesus walked the earth or now. God’s Word says that He sent His disciples out to free people from demonic oppression: *“Calling the Twelve to him, He sent them out two by two and gave them authority over EVIL SPIRITS” (Mark 6:7).*

When Jesus says we’ll be FREE INDEED through Him, just what is He freeing us FROM? Let’s briefly review your conception so you can see how, even from the beginning, you were a prisoner. When you were born, you received a spirit from God that longs to return to Him. You also received from your parents your soul, which is your mind, will and emotions. And also through your parents you inherited a SIN NATURE that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve.

But that’s not all. From your parents you also received any DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS they didn’t demolish in the Name of Jesus. Think of a stronghold as a demonic fortress of THOUGHTS in your mind. This fortress houses what the Bible calls unclean or evil spirits. These spirits work in three different ways.

- They control and influence your attitudes and behavior;
- They oppress and discourage you;
- And they color how you react to situations, circumstances, or people.

These unclean spirits incline your mind, will, and emotions toward attitudes and actions that are contrary to God’s will. They cooperate with your SIN NATURE, and together they’ll fight against you until the day you die. Your sin nature and demonic spirits want to keep you out of heaven.

Please take this to heart. You need to understand yourself the way our LORD sees you. You’re shackled by both your sin nature and by any demonic strongholds in you. But keep this wonderful truth in mind as well: Lord Jesus LOVES

you so much that He was willing to die for you. He suffered the punishment your sins deserve. And by your trust in Him, you can be SET FREE from demonic influences.

In our next video segment, we'll discuss demonic strongholds more thoroughly. These fortresses of evil thoughts and emotions are like spiritual cancer. They hinder the depth of loving relationship our Father and Lord Jesus want with you through the Holy Spirit in you. And you'll find out how you can be FREE to live the WAY of the Lord.

For Further Study

To see if you may be plagued by demonic strongholds, download our Demolishing Strongholds Questionnaire.

Website link:

Restorationministries.org/pdf/hebraicArticles/DemolishingQuestionnaire.pdf

It's a free download from our website: Restorationministries.org