

Thank God for spiritual liberty

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BIG SANDY, Texas—While the amount of physical liberty you have depends a great deal upon where you were born, your spiritual liberty depends primarily upon God and your reaction to Him.

What makes you spiritually free?

The Jews expressed that their liberty came from being Abraham's seed (John 8:33). Do you make the mistake of claiming your liberty is due to physical lineage? (Due to being with a special church group? Due to being with a special physical leader?)

God gave us spiritual freedom through His Son, Jesus Christ.

John 8:35-36—"And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

■ God has made you free from sin

How are you free from sin?

Has God eliminated His law (which defines sin)?

Romans 7:7-12—"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."

Has God changed you to the point that it is impossible for you to sin?

Romans 7:14-19—"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh)

nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice."

God has forgiven you and has given you the power to live the righteousness of His law (Romans 8:3-4).

■ **God has made you free from death**

How are you free from death?

How did God change His administration of death?

2 Corinthians 3:6-11—" [He] also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious."

Will you avoid the first death?

Hebrews 9:27—" . . . It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

Will you avoid the second death?

Revelation 20:14-15—"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

Do you understand God's mercy and the power of a believer's repentance?

Ezekiel 33:11—" 'Say to them: "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?" ' "

Romans 8:11—"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit [which] dwells in you."