

BRIGHT STAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

A STAR in the West Leading People to CHRIST

I AM FREE

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."



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Freedom is a basic human desire, so we would expect to read about it in the Bible. While the Bible speaks often of freedom, its focus is most frequently related to the spiritual freedom a person can experience in Christ.

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First, freedom in Christ is seen in contrast to the bondage of sin. Romans 6:20-23 says, "For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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Second, freedom in Christ is seen as the only true form of freedom, because it provides lasting freedom beyond this life. John 8:36 notes, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." We now know the truth that sets us free as believers (John 8:32).

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Third, a person who has experienced true freedom in Christ is called to live as His servant. The apostle Paul was an example of this, as many of his letters began with the introduction of himself as a "servant of Christ Jesus" (Romans 1:1). We are set free to serve Christ. This seems like a paradox to the non-believer, yet the freedom found in Christ gives the believer a *desire* to live for Christ as a servant. This attitude reflects the attitude displayed by Jesus Himself during His time on earth (John 13:1-20; Philippians 2:5-11).

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Fourth, those who find freedom in Christ also become His children. John 1:12 teaches, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." As Galatians 4 also notes, we are now children and heirs of the inheritance of eternal life with Christ for eternity.

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We just said we are free from sin, but then said sin is not completely removed?..... So now hearing this, how do we maintain our freedom from sin? Well I am glad you asked.

One word.... Maintenance. Maintenance is the process and or provision of maintaining or preserving someone or something.

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Accountability

Accountability- is defined as the quality or state of being accountable; especially: an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions.

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Prayer and Fasting

Prayer is the direct communication between God and His people. Hebrews 4:16 states

'Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.'

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1 John 5:14 says

'And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

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Jeremiah 29:11-14 says

**'For I know the plans I have for you,'
declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future. Then you will call on
me and come and pray to me, and I will
listen to you. You will seek me and find
me when you seek me with all your
heart. I will be found by you," declares
the Lord**

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Fasting is an action of faith.

Remember God hears prayer, but answers faith.

Matthew 6:16-18 Jesus says “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting (Don’t be extra and dramatic). Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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Solitude and Meditation

Matthew 6:6 'But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'

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It is important to understand in these moments to be mature and disciplined. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and retreat to a place of solitude to talk to God and allow the Holy Spirit to intercede for you (Romans 8:26-27).

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Service and Worship

Service is helping or doing work for someone.

Service is important because you will be able to implement what you have and are continuing to learn about the teachings that make you free in Christ.

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