

Freedom in Christ – Part 1

We're in the Kingdom of God. Last time we finished The Upward Call which served as something of a review of the whole session from creation to cross and then cross to kingdom. Today we're going to enter the subject of freedom in Christ. And you notice the order that I have on the schedule poster. I put freedom before unity because I think that sometimes we make unity appropriately a goal; but we try to force unity or achieve unity while we steadfastly refuse to walk in the freedom for which Christ set us free. And it is my personal perspective that true unity will not occur until we grow into walking in the freedom for which He set us free. So we're going to approach freedom in Christ today and the next time that we meet. Freedom is the state of being free—that is to say, not in bondage. There's only one way to become free and the Word tells us clearly. John 8:32 – You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. Thus, freedom comes by the truth. There is no freedom apart from truth. But we have to begin as Pontius Pilate did with the question he tossed out to Jesus by saying, "What is truth?" Now before becoming Christians we were pretty clear about what truth was. It's whatever we could discover through thought, through study, through our five senses, through experience.

But that was obviously not the whole truth since it was centered around the physical world. Eventually, one way or another, for us as Christians, and often through brokenness as in my case, we came to know one truth, namely that we're helpless and hopeless apart from God as flesh and blood creatures in a hostile and threatening universe that will eventually claim us in death. As we become humbled and thus, receptive God begins to reveal Himself to us. His foundational revelations are summarized in Hebrews 11:6 at that stage – and without faith it is impossible to please God; for he who comes to God must believe only two things: must believe that He is and must believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. In other words, the beginning of faith is that God is, He cares, enough to give, if we seek Him, in faith. We can please God in no other way. We can come to God in no other way other than faith. That's simply how God views the reality of the situation. In other words, we can never be free in Christ if we do not believe these foundational things about God. Of course we must believe that He is; but we must also operate in the belief that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Believing these things, we're now free to explore another world that heretofore we tended to walk in denial about in the captivity of the mind—namely to enter the realm of spiritual truth. The next key revelation to end up in a position of being free in Christ is given in Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Fear in that context obviously means awe and reverence. Knowledge is simply a tidbit of truth. Knowledge begins with fearing God. Any knowledge that you think that you have apart from awe and reverence of God is deception, not knowledge. Fearing God is to regard Him as holy. That means to regard Him as other than. Remember we began to know Him in Genesis 1:1 as the Holy God. In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. These two foundational revelations flow out of Genesis 1:1. God is the only uncreated thing in all of existence and the only self determined thing in all of existence meaning the only thing Whose value and meaning is intrinsic within Himself and not determined by some outside determinant. Freedom—to end up operating in the freedom for which Christ set us free has to contain these foundational revelations.

So freedom begins with these foundational thoughts that God is, He is a rewarder of those who seek Him, in faith, while regarding Him as holy, holding Him in an attitude of awe and reverence, which flows out of living in the constant light of in the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. The point is if you do not have awe and reverence for the Being of Genesis 1:1 Who spoke existence into being, then you will never live free in Christ because you will remain, at least part of your unrenewed mind, in self worship and never be capable of being in awe and reverence of anything other than yourself. Why? Because there is no being which approaches the Being of Genesis 1:1 Who spoke creation into existence. So if you're not in awe and reverence of that Being (and no being approaches that Being), then you cannot be in awe and reverence of any being; and if you can't be in awe and reverence of any being, it means you're in awe and reverence of yourself. So to end up in a position of living in the freedom for which He set us free, it has to be rooted and grounded in the foundational revelation of the holiness of God, the other thanness of God. To whom would you compare Me? And the answer is obviously to no one and to no thing because You are absolutely incomparable, in a class by Yourself, extraordinarily other than to such a degree that my mind will never be able to contain You. My experiences will never be able to fully unravel You; omniscience that can't be approached by a created finite peanut brain unless that other than God reveals Himself to me. So how can you help but be in awe and reverence of that Being? And being in awe and reverence of that Being is the beginning of eventually walking in the freedom for which He set us free.

Since God is the creator of all things, then He is obviously the source of all truth about all things. Truth then as a functional working definition becomes what God is and how God views everything else; because if He is this holy, other than, omniscient Being of Genesis 1:1, how can I define truth in some way other than flowing out of out of Who He is? In short form, truth becomes how God views reality, not how any other source of information, including myself, views reality. Now truth is one of those rewards that God gives to those who seek Him. Notice He gives rewards to those who seek Him, not those who seek His rewards. We will never be free in the Son of God unless we believe these elementary principles about God because we're told in the New Testament that this God Who created the Heavens and the Earth is the one in Whom we place our trust for freedom; because apart from Jesus Christ nothing has been created which has been created.

So let's remind ourselves about Who this Jesus is because we can't be free in Christ if we don't constantly dust off our illumination about Who Jesus Christ is. Colossians 1:15 – He is the image of God. Colossians 2:9 – The fullness of Deity in bodily form. Hebrews 1:3 – the glory of God. Also Hebrews 1:3 – the nature of God. Matthew 1:23 – He is the God man. Matthew 17:5 – He is the Son of God. Hebrews 1:2 – He's the message of God because God has spoken to us in these latter days in His Son. John 1:14 – the Word of God. John 14:9 – the likeness of God. And John 10:30 – the Father and I are one; He is the one God. As part of a divine mystery that our minds will never be able to encapsulate, Jesus, the God man, is God. John 10:30 – the Father and I are one. And Hebrews 1:2 – in these latter days, God has spoken to us in His Son. If we do not believe that Jesus is God, then we will never live free in Christ. If we don't believe that the Father has spoken to us in His Son in these latter days, then we will never live free in Christ; because we will constantly regard Him as a lesser God. If we aren't viewing Him as God, we're viewing Him as something other than God which means less than God. So we can't

operate in the freedom for which He set us free if we are viewing Him as a lesser being that our mind somehow can determine how much lesser He is than God.

Paul wrote in Titus 2:13 – The appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:8 says – But of the Son He says Thy throne, oh God is forever and ever. II Peter 1:1, Peter writes – by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. So Peter and Paul had no difficulty calling Jesus God—God and Savior and that’s how we are to approach it. So how do we know how God views reality? Look at Jesus. The Father told us that in Matthew 17:5 – this is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased, listen to Him. Jesus told us that in John 14:6 when He simply said I am the truth. Jesus came to show us God, how God would look up close and personal, the characteristics of God, the character of God, the thought processes of God, the behavior of God, the analysis of God, and so on; in other words to show us God and how God views everything else. We come to the truth only by coming to Jesus. That’s why He is the one way. People who try to come to God apart from Jesus will never be in the truth because Jesus is the truth. And we’re not left to discover more of Jesus through our analytical intellectual abilities. Thank God.

John 14:16-17 Jesus says – And I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper that He may be with you forever. That is the Spirit of truth, speaking of the Holy Spirit. So how does the Holy Spirit lead us into all truth? Jesus tells us. John 15:26 – He (the Holy Spirit) will bear witness of Me (Jesus, the Son of God). The Spirit of truth reveals truth by bearing witness of the one Who is truth which is God and how God views everything else. And that’s what sets us free. That’s how the Holy Spirit accomplishes His work. The Holy Spirit will bear witness of Me. The Holy Spirit will bring glory to Me. The Holy Spirit will not speak of His own initiative. The Holy Spirit cannot be the Spirit of truth unless He were bearing witness of the one who is truth which is how God views reality. That’s simply part of Ephesians 1:10 – the summing up of all things in Christ—things in the Heavens and things upon the Earth. If you do not believe that all things are summed up in Christ for us, then you will not live free in Christ because you’ll continue to judge what you should sum things up in other than Christ, because if you’re not summing them up in Christ, you’re summing them up in something else and that something else is something that you’ve self determined that you should sum something up in other than Jesus Christ. And in that area that you insist on doing so, you will continue to live in bondage and not walk in the freedom for which He set us free; because the root of all bondage is self determination and our insistence on functioning that way. So even truth for human beings is all summed up in Jesus and truth is what sets us free. If you do not regard truth as summed up in Jesus, then you will not walk in the freedom for which Jesus came to set you free.

I’m going to speak how I use these words. Truth is what God is and how God views everything else. But in short form how God views reality. Knowledge is a tidbit of truth. Understanding adds the in-depth dimension to that. It’s in depth tidbits of truth about a primary tidbit of truth; in other words, a second dimension instead of just a focal tidbit like a point on a graph. Wisdom adds the third dimension; wisdom is the godly integration and application of understanding and knowledge. That is, it takes all the dots of knowledge and all the depths of understanding and looks at all of them and ties them together to see what would God think and what would God do given this present set of circumstances? That’s wisdom. It’s skill at living according to the principles of God based on how He views reality. An earthly example to simple-mindedly make

that point is knowledge is knowing how to run a television. And all of us know how to do that. Understanding is to comprehend the electronics in the television and almost none of us do that. But wisdom is to know how to take your knowledge about how to run the television and your understanding about how a television functions and put it to use to fulfill the purposes of God on planet Earth to see how God would view the television and how He would use it.

As Christians we are firmly rooted hopefully in certain foundational truths about how God views reality. Simple mathematical expression: the holiness of God plus the sin of man equals the reality of Hell. You can't get much simpler than that. God is holy; God is other than and anything that deviates from God's character, God's purposes, and God's plan is sin. And God cannot look upon evil with favor. He cannot approve wickedness because He is perfectly righteous. And that leads to a judgment upon anything that deviates from Himself. And that leads to the reality of Hell, Hell being the absence of communion with God while receiving the wrath of God for eternity future as the revelation to us of how intolerant God is of one single act that is deviant from what He is.

That holiness of God which then reveals the magnitude of our sin has a solution and that is the cross of Jesus Christ. And that is the only solution to that problem. And that leads, of course, to a different outcome which is the reality of Heaven for the person who is a believer in Jesus Christ and Him crucified paying for his sins; because if the cross takes out the sin, you're left only with the holiness of God. And we have the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ imputed to us. So that's why that bottom line works the way it does because when you eradicate our sin and its penalty through the cross of Christ, you're left with the holiness of God and the holiness of God is what occupies Heaven. Hence we go to Heaven. So these two simple-minded equations taken together represent the foundational revelation of God, the foundational revelation of man, the problem, the solution, and the outcome dependent on whether you walk in the solution of God and how He views that reality. If you believe these, you are set free. That is the beginning of operating to be free in Christ; because John 8:32 told us the truth sets you free, but John 8:36 clarifies it by saying he who is free in Christ is free indeed because Christ is truth.

There's one more issue. Although we are free, we tend not to walk in the fullness of that freedom. Galatians 5:1 – It was for freedom that Christ set us free. Now originally when first saved, I viewed that verse as redundant, as a verbosity, as a statement of saying the same thing twice. Then I later realized the difference. That is, free in Christ refers to our standing or our position. But freedom refers to our functioning. And they are two different things. In America, the land of the free, a person can shut himself up in his bedroom and never come out for the rest of his natural life. So he is free in the land of the free, but he's not operating in any freedom for which he is free. So we need to grasp the distinction between being free and living free; because that's the gap between the way things are and the way things ought to be in our Christian life.

Simple-minded story: I watched Discovery channel, a nature show years ago, and had the story of a captive gorilla who had been conceived in captivity, born in captivity, had been in the same tiny dark cage for the 20 years of his life on Earth. The animal rights people got involved and insisted that he be treated in a more humane way; so they built a huge compound reproducing his natural environment in the jungles of Africa, open—incredibly open with all of the things that he would have access to in his natural environment. So they wheeled his tiny dark cage up to the

side of the new compound, opened the door of each (the doors were apposed so that there'd be an entrance from the old to the new). The gorilla walked out, at least stuck his head out, looked at the landscape, looked to the left, looked to the right, looked back to the center and then turned and walked back into his dark cage because that was the cage in which he was familiar to function. And that's how we are in our carnal selves. We are free, but we turn and walk back through the entrance into the same dark cage in which we have functioned for all of our natural lives. So he was free; but he chose not to walk in any of the freedom for which he had been set free. Now our goal in this session and next week is to perform the great escape from our self-imposed bondage in order to experience the fullness of the freedom for which Christ set us free.

Now over and over Jesus would say, may it be done unto you according to your faith. If you do not believe that you are free, then you will never live in freedom. So we should ask ourselves the question: What difference does it make if we are free? Why should we live in the freedom for which He set us free? Simple answer. I Corinthians 10:31 – Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Everything that exists was created to reveal the glory of God, so God could bring glory to Himself. The universe is not centered on man. The center of the universe has favored man by creating him in His image; but the center of the universe is God and not man. We are created to glorify God. Now when we, by faith, believe that God is, we bring glory to Him. When we believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him, we glorify Him. When we believe that in the beginning this God created the Heavens and the Earth, we glorify Him. When we regard Him as holy, as other than, we glorify Him. When we fear Him, when we hold Him in awe and reverence, in a category by Himself and respond reverentially to God, we glorify Him. When we regard truth as what God is and how God views everything else, we glorify Him. When we agree that all things are summed up in Jesus as the plan of God, we glorify Him. When we agree that we are free in Christ, we glorify Him. And when we walk in the freedom for which He set us free, we glorify Him. Any behavior to the contrary does not glorify Him. Anything done to the contrary is to judge that we know something that should be glorified instead of God and specifically His Son Jesus Christ.

We know that we are free unto God through Jesus Christ; the veil is rent, we come boldly into His presence, we can abide with Him, we can live and move and have our being in Christ; and by doing so we are set free unto the life of God which is called the abundant life with the full manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit. That's our calling as Christians. That is what glorifies Him to the max during our time on planet Earth. But also remember, we can't go to something without going from something. So I repeat, if you think you're going to Iowa City and Cedar Rapids isn't fading in your rearview mirror, I don't know what you're doing, but you're not going to Iowa City; because if you're going to Iowa City, you will see Cedar Rapids fade in your rearview mirror. So let's look at a few other things that we are to see fade in our rearview mirror.

First deception – the most foundational one. John 8:44 speaking of Satan says – when ever he (Satan) speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature for he is a liar and the father of lies. So Satan's only weapon in this world as the god of this world is deception. Well since Jesus is the truth and Satan is a liar, then anything Satan does is anti-Christ because it's anti-truth. His only weapon is deception and his primary drive is twofold. It is to keep an unbeliever from believing and to keep a believer from believing that Jesus is actually Who He said He was and that a

believer is actually free as Jesus said he was and that a believer can actually walk in the freedom for which Christ set him free. That's his greatest lie. His greatest lie to us as Christians is to have us believe that life in the flesh with self as the basis is more fulfilling than life in the Spirit with Jesus as the basis. If you succumb to that lie, then you will not access the abundant life, you will not bring glory to God, you will not walk in the freedom for which Christ set you free because there's only bondage in the flesh, not freedom. When you choose the flesh as opposed to the Spirit, you glorify primarily self and secondarily Satan, but never Christ. The flesh is hostile to God. The flesh cannot do the things of God. But here's to me a stunning point. As Christians we are so free in Christ that He allows us to choose bondage. We are free from that deception of doing so; but we must agree that we are free or we will not walk in the freedom for which He set us free. There's an upward call to the truth of Jesus Christ, an upward call to Jesus Christ as truth; and responding to that upward call is what brings you from deception to operate in the fullness of the freedom of Jesus Christ as truth which is the Christian life.

We're free from sin and there are three stages to this. We are now free from the penalty of sin. That's because Jesus paid it all; because the one Who is truth spoke the truth when He said "It is finished." The payment for sin has been made. Now when we die and go to Heaven, we will be free from even the presence of sin. But in the meantime even at this moment while we are on planet Earth as born again Christians, we are free from the power of sin. Now this is something that we have trouble grasping or at least accepting. But that difficulty doesn't make it less true; because the one Who is truth told us certain things. I Corinthians 3:16 – do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? Well that's the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent. And because the Holy Spirit, being omnipotent God dwells in you, we're told in I John 4:4 – greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Well Satan isn't in you. The one that's in you is the Holy Spirit of God, God Himself, the omnipotent God. And so obviously greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world. I Corinthians 10:13 – God is faithful Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. But with the temptation will provide the way of escape also that you may be able to endure it. So God Himself is in us. God is greater in His power than anything else including any temptation and we're told that with every temptation God has provided the way of escape. That's simply how God views reality. Now we will either agree with that and walk in the power of it or we will disagree with God, continue to judge God as being wrong when He said those things in His Word and continue to walk in bondage to sin. We are free in Christ from the power of sin. That's why it tells us in Romans 6:14 – sin shall not have dominion over you. We are free in Christ from the power of sin; but we choose if we walk in the freedom for which he set us free. There's an upward call to walk in the freedom of the power over sin for which Christ set us free. But there's a way to do that and we'll pick that up even in later sessions.

We're freed from purposelessness. Our underlying general purpose, as you know, is to glorify God. We do that by lining up our thoughts, words, and deeds with the more specific purposes of Jesus Christ. So simply stated, I remind you on this poster—the purposes of Jesus Christ in a way that's easy to remember. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost which refers to converting unbelievers to believers. He also came to usher in the abundant life to believers. I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly. And by doing those two things, He simultaneously destroys the works of the devil because the works of the devil, through deception, are to keep unbelievers from believing and to keep believers from accessing the abundant life

that Jesus came to give. But since we know our purpose and it's simply reviewed for us through the purposes of Jesus, we are free from purposelessness, that is from drifting through life, living life without purpose. James 1:8 speaks of being a double-minded man unstable in all his ways. But since we have purpose, we should have clarity of vision and intent, we should be free from double-mindedness and thus, free from instability being blown about by the winds of circumstance. We are also free from lukewarmness. We're free from boredom. We're free from laziness. We're free from procrastination and we're free from hopelessness; because all those things, plus others represent the fruit of functioning in the flesh with self as the basis as opposed to functioning in the Spirit with Jesus as the basis. But we are free from those whether or not we walk in the freedom for which he set us free. There is a certain urgency from our call before our Holy God to respond to the upward call of the purposes of God as spoken from or about His Son. For we don't know when the window of grace will close. We don't have a promise of tomorrow here on planet Earth to continue as earthen vessels to spread His Word, to seek and to save that which was lost. So we are free in Christ from purposelessness. We are so free that we can choose to continue walking as if we have no purpose. Instability and apathy and lukewarmness may reveal your choice; but they do not make the fact that you are free in Christ to walk in the purposes of Christ any less true. Our walk is one thing; but our walk never negates the truth of God. He allows us freedom to resist Him, to operate in the opposite of what He has provided for us. He lets us turn around and go back into our cold, restricted, dark, confining cage if we choose to do that. We're still children of God; saved still, yet so as by fire because He'll burn up all the works of the flesh that you produce. But you're still saved, yet so as by fire.

We're free from the captivity of self preservation. We have to know that we are eternal spirit creatures that live in mortal bodies. I am not my body. This body is only what you see; but the me, the real me, is inside. And when this body dies, the real me, the spirit departs and thereafter even I'll receive my glorified body fit to be in the presence of God without being consumed when this dead mortal body is resurrected at the time of the Rapture. That is, simply stated, how God views reality. And knowing those truths sets us free from the captivity of self preservation. My mortal body does not have the final say. Jesus Christ does because all authority has been given to Him. My situation as a Christian is I am in Christ. Jesus is simply the first fruits of the victory over death. Acts 2:24 – It was impossible for death to hold Him. And likewise since we are in Him, it will be impossible for death to hold us. So death is the final enemy and all other threats to us are simply miniature versions of the final enemy death. Any suffering that we endure in the interim is simply part of our journey, part of our cross; because suffering that comes our way is either God caused or God permitted as part of His sovereignty. And our calling is to fulfill the purposes of Jesus Christ in the midst of our suffering rather than to be driven by escaping our suffering. We don't seek to suffer. Plenty will come because a personal cross has been measured that's just right for you to grow into. Our purpose is not to see how long we can survive on planet Earth as mortal creatures. Our purpose is not to see how comfortable we can be during our time here. Our purpose is to become holy, not comfortable, so as to bear witness of our God. The fear of suffering does not glorify God. The fear of death does not glorify God because when you fear suffering and fear death, you're viewing your circumstances and death as being more powerful than your God and bringing glory to those things. We are so free in Christ, however, that we can choose to still function in the drive for comfort and the fear of death although we are free. But to live that way was not the freedom for

which He set us free; because the last thing we should want to do as Christians is to glorify self by seeking only self preservation and comfort while refusing to glorify the God Who created us and saved us and left us here for that very purpose to bring glory to His name through His Son Jesus Christ.

We're freed from self. Actually all the things that I've described so far are components of being freed from self but I specifically want to mention a few under this heading. We are set free from self righteousness. We know that it is all by the grace of God, not by our own righteousness. We know that we're never to stand before a Holy God cloaked in our own righteousness. We are set free from the bondage of self righteousness. We're also set free from self condemnation. We know that the blood of Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world and since I am in Christ, then the penalty is paid. Hebrews 10:12 – But He (Jesus) having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time. There's no other sacrifice. I Peter 3:18 – for Christ also died for sins once for all. Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. And that's us. So dwelling in self condemnation is simply to continue to position yourself as the judge of God; because you're judging that the value of your sins outweighs the value of the blood of the Son of God on the cross. It's to call unclean what He has called clean by the blood of His Son. It's to say that your sin exceeds the grace of God. So you are functioning when you're in self condemnation in positioning yourself to judge God in all those dimensions. So self condemnation is simply an expression of self. It's an expression of pride because you're insisting that you can set the value of your sins compared to the value of the blood of Christ better than God can.

We're also free from self consciousness. And I had to learn this before speaking. Self consciousness flows out of the root of inadequacy and the root of the fear of being viewed as inadequate. But as Paul stated in II Corinthians 2:16 – who is adequate for these things? Who is adequate in themselves to stand up and give testimony of the Holy God of Genesis 1:1? II Corinthians 3:5 – Our adequacy is from God. So self consciousness, when properly understood, is only a disguised fear of inadequacy and a disguised fear of the judgment of you and your ability by the eyes of man. It's to remain in the captivity of opinion as opposed to how God views reality. And it is rooted in self. So self consciousness is not humility. Self consciousness is pride.

Now we are free from walking by emotions. Most of our emotions are left over from the ruts of our past experiences even before salvation. And they are extremely unreliable. Feelings do not set you free; because feelings are not the final determinant of what is truth. As we walk by truth and not by feelings, we'll begin to have feelings that flow out of truth; because feelings will flow out of either deceptions from our past or feelings associated with walking in the truth of how God views reality. So the phrase is, we do not live by our feelings; but thank God we can grow in feeling what we live by which is freedom in Jesus Christ. So we are free in Jesus Christ from self righteousness and the pursuit thereof. We're free from self condemnation because there's no condemnation in Christ. We're free from self consciousness because perfect love of Christ for me cast out all fear. We're free from walking by feelings. We are so free that we can choose to still walk in bondage to past experiences and past feelings flowing out of those past experiences. But there is an upward call to walk in the freedom for which Christ set us free living above all those considerations.

And finally as one component of this, we're freed from achievement mentality. Isaiah 64:6 – Our righteousness is as filthy rags. When you grasp that flowing out of your revelation of the holiness of God, you are free from thinking that the Kingdom of God is ever an achievement test. We are so achievement oriented in America and competitive oriented that it's hard for us to let go of the notion of competition and achievement. You submit to the achievement of Christ. Functioning in the Kingdom of God is a submission test, not an achievement test. Your only achievement is to point to His achievement and to live out of the truth represented by what He achieved. That means you, as a Christian, are set free from performance anxiety. You're set free from competition. You're set free from glorying in earthly positions. You're set free from the judgment of people. You're set free from legalism. I Peter 1:13 says fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. So if it is to be fixed completely on grace and grace is unmerited favor, then there is never any achievement on your part that does the work that grace is to do according to how God views reality. We've learned that it is all by the grace of God. We have learned to access more grace through humility because He gives His grace to the humble. And we've learned that the humble one is the one who's submitting to how God views reality instead of contesting God with how you view reality. So we do achieve, but it is not by achievement. We achieve by the power of God loosed within us as in humility we surrender to how He views reality and choose to stand on the bedrock foundation of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, focusing and testifying of Who He is, what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do. We're set free from achievement as being the measure of our godliness. But we are so free in Christ that He allows us to continue to live in the bondage of achievement orientation and competition if we choose. But that is not the freedom for which he set us free. And that does not glorify the cross of Jesus Christ. Instead it constantly glorifies either ourselves and how we self assess that we compare with others or glorifies ourselves as being able to establish what an acceptable level of godliness is before a holy God and gives us a sense of placing God in our debt because we have lived in such a godly fashion for Him, all of which are totally and absolutely and overwhelmingly contrary to how God views reality.

So my time is up for today, but to leave you with focus, we have looked at the roots of operating in the freedom for which He set us free. And we've looked at some things that we're to see disappearing in our rearview mirror as we head into the greater freedom than we've ever experienced because we are free indeed in Jesus Christ. So thank you for listening.