

STAND FAST IN THE LIBERTY

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Ga. 5:1).

1. STAND FAST IN THE LIBERTY.

1. Stand fast - unwavering; unshakable; constant; steadfast; a bulldogged determined; not giving up any ground that we have gained.
2. It is with a great price that I have gained this freedom (as a Roman soldier).
3. Jesus sets us free.
 1. Shall know the truth that sets us free - *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (Jo. 8:32)
 2. *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"* (Jo. 8:36).
4. Once in bondage to the world.
 1. *"Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world"* (Ga. 4:3).
 2. *"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?"* (Ga. 4:9).
5. Don't get entangled again with that which we have been set free from.
6. What is there to go back to?

2. GOD HEARD THE CRY OF HIS PEOPLE.

1. *"And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant"* (Ex. 6:5).
2. *"Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will*

bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments" (Ex. 6:6).

3. But they desired to go back.

1. Why have you brought us into the wilderness to die? Would to God we were back in Egypt.

2. Neh. 9:17 - *"And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."*

3. GOD'S DESIRE IS TO SET US FREE.

1. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me - *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Lu. 4:18).*

2. The chosen fast of the Lord. *"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" (Is. 58:6).*

4. SATAN IS A SLAVE DRIVER.

1. He may promise you the world, but he will capture your soul.

2. What have you profited if you gain the whole world and lose your soul?

3. The lure of fame, fortune, alcohol, drugs. It may look exciting, but is ready to capture you and to bring you into bondage.

5. JESUS HAS COME TO SET US FREE FROM THE BONDAGES OF:
 1. Sin.
 1. *"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Ro. 6:18).*
 2. *"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness" (Ro. 6:20).*
 3. *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Ro. 6:22).*
 4. *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Ro. 8:2).*
 2. Alcohol and drugs.
 3. Perverted lifestyles.
 1. Fornication (a broad term for all sexual sins).
 2. Adultery.
 3. Homosexuality.
 4. Pornography.
 4. The past.
 1. Hurts.
 2. Feelings of rejection - Feeling that people won't accept you or love you.
 5. Guilt - feeling of never having been forgiven.
 6. Insecurities.
 7. Fear.
 1. Failure - indecisiveness; afraid of making wrong decision.
 2. Rejection - people won't accept you or love you.
 3. Unknown.
 4. Fear of death.
 8. Feeling boxed in--no way out.

9. Jealousies, hurts, bitterness, anger, resentment, hatred, unforgiveness.

10. Price of getting even (Quote from None of These Diseases by S. I. McMillen: pp. 73-74):

The moment I start hating a man, I become his slave. I can't enjoy my work any more because he even controls my thoughts. My resentments produce too many stress hormones in my body and I become fatigued after only a few hours of work. The work I formerly enjoyed is now drudgery. Even vacations cease to give me pleasure. It may be a luxurious car that I drive along a lake fringed with the autumnal beauty of maple, oak, and birch. As far as my experience of pleasure is concerned, I might as well be driving a wagon in mud and rain. The man I hate hounds me wherever I go. I can't escape his tyrannical grasp on my mind. When the waiter serves me porterhouse steak with French fries, asparagus, crisp salad, and strawberry shortcake smothered with ice cream, it might as well be stale bread and water. My teeth chew the food and I swallow it, but the man I hate will not permit me to enjoy it. King Solomon must have had a similar experience, for he wrote: "Better a dish of vegetables, with love, than the best beef served with hatred."

The man I hate may be many miles from my bedroom; but more cruel than any slave driver, he whips my thoughts into such a frenzy that my innerspring mattress becomes a rack of torture. The lowliest of the serfs can sleep, but not I. I really must acknowledge the fact that I am a slave to every man on whom I pour the vials of my wrath.

11. Debt. *"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender"* (Pr. 22:7)

12. Religious bondage.

1. The law.

1. *"Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"* (Ga. 3:2-3).

2. Circumcision.

3. *"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage."* (Ga. 2:4).

4. We are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free

(Ga. 4:31).

2. Spirit of control - Controlling through fear.
3. Traditions of the elders (which supersede the Word of God).
4. Ordinances of dos and don'ts.
5. Limits on our religious liberties.
 1. Not to be stumbling block.
 2. *"As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God"* (1 Pe. 2:16).

6. GOD SAYS, "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"

1. The deliverer has come.
2. The choice is ours.
3. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.
4. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.
5. Whom the son has made free is free indeed.
6. Law of the spirit of life sets us free from law of sin and death.
7. Deliverance from death and the fear of death.
 1. Deliver those who all their lifetime were subject to bondage through fear of death.
 2. Ps. 102:20 - *"...to hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death..."*