

Setting the Captives Free

Today's topic is very popular around the world, because almost every society has experienced times of captivity and imprisonment of some kind, sometimes from other nations, from their environment, even from within themselves. Throughout our society we've seen and heard a variety of laws, protests, sacrifices, and songs related to freedom, however the challenge with most of this is that they refer to a natural and earthly freedom, but the greater need for freedom isn't temporal, but instead it's supernatural, spiritual, and heavenly. Why is that true? It's true because natural freedoms are temporary, in comparison to having the ability to experience a freedom that doesn't have natural or physical restraints.

For centuries, throughout generations seeking freedom has been common for so many people, especially those raised in poverty, living with impairment, imprisoned within your own mind, and being physically captive. These are just four of the many areas we desire freedom from, but for many people they often seek freedom beyond that which is natural; for Christians, God gives us divine promises of being set free from every captivity. Therefore, if you're not saved, we advise you to consider these benefits you may be missing!

Setting the captives free is God's mandate through Christ, were encouraged to expect freedom despite being poor, brokenhearted, being in darkness, being blind, and being imprisoned; *"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners."* (Isaiah 61:1); in Luke 4:18 God's promise is fulfilled as Christ announces *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."*

Setting the captives free offers Hope over Fears, ungodly fear act as a cage captivating us inwardly, emotionally, mentally, and can hold us hostage physically. Yet God declares "Hope" which has the power to overcome all of our fears, worries, and anxieties, as some may say *"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."* (Psalms 42:11). Therefore, we declare **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."** (Romans 15:13). Overcoming fear is consistent with seeking God and recognizing the power God has given us: *"I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."* (Psalms 34:4); & *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7)

Setting the captives free is designed to Break Every Chain, chains represent versatility, strength, and interconnecting links; which reflects the interconnecting strongholds that cause captivities, vain seeds, generational curses, etc., but thanks be to God in Christ that Every Chain is Broken: *“It is for **freedom that Christ** has set us free; stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a **yoke of slavery.**” (Galatians 5:1), We must declare these words “He **has delivered us** from the domain of darkness **and transferred us** to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13). Breaking chains with our testimonies and confessions: **“If we confess** our sins, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us** our sins and **purify us from all** unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:9*

Finally, setting the captives free provides Renewal and Transformation, as initially stated being truly set free is beyond human capability to provide an inner freedom that makes everything new, fresh, and fulfilling, regardless of opposition and oppressions. This freedom can't be compared to anything that we can utter or explain. The best we can offer is to proclaim it as the scriptures declare it: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, **ye shall be free indeed** (John 8:36); this freedom comes with bonuses, such as receiving continuous rebirth, renewal, and transformation: *“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the **washing of rebirth and renewal** by the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5); or being honest and bold enough to say, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and **renew a steadfast** spirit within me.” (Psalms 51:10), these actions promote a paradigm shift “And we all who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory are **being transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18). May we continue to daily experience, witness, and testify of that which is being Setting Free, Washed, and Renewed by the Holy Spirit!*