



Message Five: Freedom Through the Spirit *Pastor Mike Chapman*

Freedom is one of the major themes of the Bible. Freedom is a great biblical word. British author and evangelical theologian, John Stott, and Billy Graham both have said that freedom could easily be used as a synonym for salvation. Today we will explore the nature of the freedom of the Gospel as we look at chapter five of Paul's letter to the Christians in Galatia.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST – 1:1-12

The **purpose** of salvation is freedom.

Luke 4:18-19, The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (NIV)

The Gospel is a message of **grace**.

We don't earn salvation; it is freely given.

It releases us from every kind of slavery.

The **goal** of salvation is freedom.

Many wrongly think the goal of salvation is moralism.

The two opposite poles of slavery: **legalistic** form of slavery and the **libertine** form of slavery.

The means of this freedom is **faith** and **hope**.

LIVING IN THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST – 5:13-26

In the second half of this chapter, Paul addresses the challenge of "**living freedom out.**"

He will use the word "**flesh**" six times.

The New Testament speaks of the "cravings of our sinful nature" (Ephesians 2:3), "deceitful desires" (Ephesians 4:22) and "sinful desires" (1 Peter 2:11).

The manifestations of the flesh are obvious...

*sexual immorality - impurity - lustful pleasures - idolatry
sorcery - hostility - quarreling - jealousy - outbursts of anger
selfish ambition - dissension - division - envy - drunkenness
wild parties - other things like these*

A legalistic approach to Christianity demonstrates confusion about the **depth** of the human problem.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of liberty in our hearts.

*2 Corinthians 12:16-18, But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. This Lord is the Spirit. Wherever the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom. As all of us reflect the Lord's glory with faces that are not covered with veils, we are being changed into his image with ever-increasing glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
(GW)*

The life of spiritual freedom is accomplished by “walking in the Spirit.”

The Christian life is a “**spiritual journey.**”

It is not a **solo** journey.

Walking involves **effort** and **discipline.**

Walking with the Spirit implies being **led** by and **keeping in step** with the Spirit.

The manifestation of a life in this Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit:

*love - joy - peace - patience with people - kindness
generosity - faithfulness - gentleness - self-control*