

“You Shall Be Free Indeed”

The Bible can set you free from confusion.

The Bible is not easily understood by the casual reader. Even intelligent people who hold positions of considerable responsibility need help understanding the Bible. One such person said, “How can I [understand] unless someone guides me?” – *Acts 8:31*

At the same time, *the Bible is meant to be understood!*

We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. – *1 John 5:20*

I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. – *Ephesians 3:3-4*

The Bible can set you free from doubt.

Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. – *John 20:30-31*

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. – *1 John 5:13*

Trusting Jesus can set you free from the troubles of this life.

Worry and anxiety are hard masters. Jesus can make you free!

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. – *Philippians 4:4-7*

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. – *1 Peter 5:6-7*

Many people are in bondage to their **circumstances**. They are controlled by things other people do, and by bad things that happen to them. Learning to think like Jesus can free you from these temporary problems, and from things that are beyond your control.

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – *Romans 8:37-38*

In these days when so many relationships are failing, many people are also overcome by **loneliness**. Jesus seemed to be alone at times, but knew that the Father was always with Him.

He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him. – *John 8:29*

In the same way, Jesus promised His followers,

“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” – *Matthew 28:20*

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" – **Hebrews 13:5-6**

Following Jesus can set you free from sin.

Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."³² "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."³⁵ "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever."³⁶ "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. – **John 8:31-36**

Living as a Christian can set you free from emptiness.

People struggle to find meaning and direction in life. Jesus shows us how to live a life of purpose.

Just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – **Romans 6:19-23**

You, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. – **Galatians 5:13**

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. – **1 Peter 2:15-16**

Becoming like Jesus can set you free from fear.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. – **1 John 4:17**

When we think about life, there are good reasons to be afraid... if we are not following Jesus. When we think about **death**, we should be absolutely terrified... if we are not following Jesus. By following Jesus, we can be made free indeed, and find purpose in life by serving God and sharing His love with other people.

Become Jesus' follower ("disciple") by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved." (**Mark 16:16**) Then follow the example of the New Testament church (**Acts 2**, etc.) and be faithful until you meet your Lord in judgment – a day in which you can have great confidence and rejoicing.

⁵⁶The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. – **1 Corinthians 15:56-58**