

FREEDOM!

You've Been Set Free

Sandi Querin

Seven Biblical, practical steps to walking in grace and maintaining your freedom in Jesus Christ.

Congratulations — You have been set free by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ! Below are some things you need to know in order to stay free and grow in Him.

1. WALK in the Spirit of God.

2. Salvation is a daily walk that requires responsible living to maintain your freedom. Walking or abiding in the Spirit of God protects you from demonic influences, old habits, behaviors and addictions that you were delivered from. It also draws you closer to Jesus so that you can enjoy fellowship with Him and begin to worship Him with a desire to obey Him and give yourself to Him. The Bible says that Jesus Himself intercedes for you, which means He prays with violence against the enemy, and with love toward you. You are not alone!

The Holy Spirit of God will guide and enable you as you attempt to follow Jesus Christ.

Matthew 12:43-45

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

If we allow ourselves to stay “empty” (without Christ-likeness) once we have been cleansed of evil, the evil will find a way to return. This is why we must “walk in the Spirit of God,” or follow Christ and be willing to be changed.

If you have recognized Jesus as the Son of God and asked Him to come into your life and take control, then He has! It is important for you to command every other controlling spirit to leave you in the name of Jesus, so that you are no longer a slave to them. Once you receive salvation by accepting Jesus Christ, then you must receive deliverance by forsaking the works of evil that have been in your life.

This freedom from demonic activity in your life is the beginning of a powerful change for you!

Ephesians 4:22-24

“With regard to your former way of life; put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; be made new in the attitude of your minds; and put on the new self, which has been created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

The word of God says that you are a “**new creation in Christ Jesus**,” so this is the time for you to start taking steps to look and act like it. You should no longer do the things you did before that did not glorify God; you are different now! The Word of God says to “come out from among them...” which means that you are in this world, but you shouldn't be of this world. It means that you have to separate yourself from people and behaviors of the world and what you used to do. Be careful what you watch on television and what kind of music you listen to... you are being rebuilt for the glory of God! It will be easier to serve and worship the Lord if you are filled with who He is and not who you've been!

Romans 8:7

“The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”

This is why we must spend time getting to know Jesus each day because once we’ve lived in sin, our mind is hostile toward God and does not want to obey or walk in fellowship with Jesus. As you begin to spend time with Jesus through fellowship with other believers, reading the word and prayer, the Holy Spirit will begin to change your mind and heart toward God.

Galatians 5:22-26

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Walking in the Spirit means to obey Christ and be full of His Spirit. How do you know if you are “walking in the Spirit”? If you have the attributes or “fruits” of this scripture being displayed in your life! We grow in them every day, moment by moment!

2. WORSHIP the Lord.

We worship Him when we stop and thank Him, when we notice the good He has done and created. When we are walking in the Spirit, our very life worships Him. The Bible says to worship the Lord in song and with praises from our mouth and feelings deep in our soul. Deep prayer is worship, shouting for joy is worship, being still before Him or weeping because of His goodness is all worship. Even repentance is worship.

Worship looks different to each person. I invite you to find out the best way for you to worship this mighty God who has redeemed you!

Philippians 2:9-11

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him (Jesus), and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

There is nobody else who died for you but Jesus. Because of His death, you are allowed to have a relationship with God and are able to be comforted and instructed by the Holy Spirit. Because of the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave, and because He rose from the dead and has all power and authority, you are able to destroy the works of the devil in His name. The Bible says that everyone will all agree one day that Jesus Christ is Lord! Praise him for what He has done and who He is!

Nehemiah 9:6

“You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”

The Bible says that all of creation worships the creator, God. The Word of God also says that, if we don’t worship the Lord, the rocks will cry out and do it in our place. Begin worshipping by being thankful and it will stir the place deep in your soul that has been reserved, since your birth, to only worship Him.

Matthew 2:11

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”

A portion of worship deals with giving. When you love someone, you give to them. Start by giving the Lord your whole heart. All the hard places that you don’t let anyone touch... that is a form of worship and it will greatly bless the Lord.

Daniel 6:10

“But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.”

When Daniel “prayed,” it means here that he was deep in prayer and began worshipping. Prayer and worship go hand in hand. In this passage of scripture, a law had just been passed that stated, if anyone prayed to God (they were a sinful nation that wanted everyone to pray to the king only) they would be thrown in a deep pit or den of lions. Hungry lions! Daniel wasn’t afraid. God delivered him because of his obedience and stand for holiness. Daniel was thrown in the lions’ den and the lions didn’t touch him. The next day the entire country started serving God because of the miracle. Don’t be afraid to be different and continue doing what God has told you to do. There will be great reward and abundance because of your obedience.

3. STUDY the scriptures in the Word of God

Study God’s Word to strengthen your faith. Your mind must be full of the Word of God, so your old nature and sin desire does not rule you again. Remember, the devil is a liar and he does not want you to succeed. You must know what the Bible says so that you can tell the devil the truth when he lies to you!

2 Timothy 2:15

“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Study the Bible so the Holy Spirit can teach you what is right and wrong. Studying goes beyond reading. Ponder scripture and begin to find out what the Lord is saying to you personally. Attend a Bible study group or go to a Bible store and ask someone how to use the tools and resources available to study the Word of God. If you are a Christian, it is shameful not to know what the Bible says. You need to know the Word of God so that you can grow in Jesus Christ, help others and also to fight the enemy when he tries to pull you backward.

Colossians 3:10

“Put on the ‘new man,’ which is renewed in knowledge after the image of God that created him.”

Knowledge of God and the vision for your future in Jesus Christ comes from the Bible. Read it daily. The Word of God says that, without a vision and without knowledge, we will perish.

Psalms 119:105

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

As we read the Word of God, the Holy Spirit helps us to see clearly the way we should go.

Romans 12:2

“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Our mind is renewed by reading the Word of God! The more of the Bible we have in us, the more we will know the will of God. But we must also take control of the environment around us to protect our minds and hearts. If you have things in your home, or around you, that remind you of your old life, including any occult involvement, “new age” practices or addictions, you should get rid of them. Once you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and command the satanic spirits to leave you in His name, it is impossible for your spirit to be possessed by any other spirit but the Holy Spirit (unless you invite them back). However, we have personalities (the wills and emotions that make up our body, soul and mind) which may have been opened to satanic powers through our involvement in ungodly things. Your spirit is no longer controlled, but you will have

to walk the Christian life with power in order for your body, mind and soul to be set free like your spirit was when you accepted Jesus Christ. You are “retraining” your body, soul and mind to look like your “new” spirit. Watch what comes out of your mouth and what goes into your mind and you’ll be okay! Scripture is telling you to not look like “the world” anymore, but to look like one who has been changed by Jesus Christ. This is your opportunity to live free with God’s abundant blessings upon you.

4. PRAY and develop a relationship with Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

By taking our troubles to the Lord, we are building a relationship with Him. If we never pray, we shall never see the answer to that prayer. Don’t stay up all night worrying about things, let God take care of your needs; He’s going to be up all night anyway! Be at peace, for the Word of God says that “when we lay down our sleep will be sweet.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

The Word of God also says that the “Joy of the Lord will be your strength.” Through prayer, we receive great joy because we give our burdens to the Lord! As we allow the Lord to be our joy, we will begin to know His will and be able to trust Him.

Colossians 4:2

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

When you don’t want to pray, remember that praying is talking to God and sharing your love and needs with Him. As you do this daily, you will begin to be able to trust Him and be happy about the way things are, knowing He is in charge! Eventually, you will be able to feel the heart of Jesus and pray His own concerns back to Him, (this type of praying is pure and prophetic) getting past your own needs, fully trusting Him to take care of you.

James 5:16

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

God will hear the honest cry of your heart. Many times, our dishonesty and unforgiveness keep us sick in body and spirit. The Lord wants us to be honest with one another and Him so He can heal us. There are so many ways in which we need His touch. As you become sincere in your prayers, you will see many wonderful answers come to pass.

5. FORGIVE.

You must forgive yourself, others and possibly the Lord Himself. You may have anger or bitterness even toward God because of the way your life has turned out... take this time now to be honest about some things and forgive. Forgive so that you can be full of the love and blessings of the Lord, and fully accept and understand His forgiveness of you.

Matthew 18:21-35

“Peter came to the Lord and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the

kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents (millions of dollars). But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold; and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence (a few dollars): and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe.' And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

When we choose not to forgive, we put ourselves in bondage: a prison of the soul where the blessings of God cannot reach us.

Mark 11:24-26

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

If we do not forgive others, then it will put a "block" between us and God and, when we pray, He will not send the answer. We can "believe" all we want to, but if we have unforgiveness in our hearts, the answers will never come the way we want them to!

When you go to pray, always ask the Lord to reveal sin to you and ask forgiveness for it. Once you've been forgiven for something, you don't have to keep asking to be forgiven of it. The Bible says that "His mercies are new every morning!" Each and every day we are forgiven. It is our goal to "Walk in the Spirit" as we have learned, so that we will have the strength and desire to stop doing the things that we continually need forgiveness for. But, we are human, and so, there will always be something, whether big or small, along this road of life! That's why the Lord says to come each day to Him and seek His face, so that we can walk in fellowship with Him with nothing in the way.

When we forgive others, we will have the faith to believe for what we are praying for and it will come to pass because of the power of God that becomes activated in our lives when we forgive. Jesus forgave, so we must forgive. When forgiveness is active in our lives, we will be able to walk as overcomers of all those things that try to hold us back!

Luke 23:33-34

"When they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him... Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..."

As He was being tortured and crucified for things He didn't do, Jesus forgave. He also said in the Word that we would "do the things He did and even greater things..." He is our standard of performance and perfect example! Whatever they've done to you, it wasn't greater than being crucified on Calvary for crimes that you didn't commit. Try to remember that as you go forward in an effort to forgive them for what they have done to you.

Luke 6:36-38

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

This verse is telling us, basically, that “what goes around, comes around!” If we are hateful, judgmental, unforgiving and selfish, then people will treat us that way and that is all the reward we will get. The Lord will forgive us of all our error if we will confess our sin to Him, have repentance in our heart for what we have done and be willing to forgive others. Once we have done this, then a “good measure” (which is more good things than we could count or understand) will be handed to us in a variety of ways.

Once we are walking in forgiveness, we are no longer angry and bitter. At this point we are able to gladly give of ourselves, our finances and resources to others and reap the benefit of being a giver. There are no greater rewards in the Bible than for those of a giver, but we cannot be “cheerful givers,” as the Word tells us to be, if we have unforgiveness in our hearts. If we can’t forgive, then we will miss out on some of the most abundant blessings the Lord has for us.

The Bible tells us to “give the first 10%” of what we make to the work of God so that the work may continue. The Word further tells us to give “offerings” as we feel led to. The Lord says, in the book of Malachi in His Word, to “challenge Him” by giving so that the “windows of heaven” can be opened up upon us. The windows of heaven represent every kind of abundant blessing. Malachi 3 further tells us that when we give 10% of our income as an offering to God, He will destroy the devil for us. If you cannot forgive people, it will be hard for you to willingly give to God.

We are being told here that we design our own blessings by our behavior toward others and the work of God! We can walk in none of these blessings if we won’t forgive, or all of them if we do.

6. STAND FIRM in your freedom

Galatians 5:1

“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.”

When we allow temptation to overcome us, we forsake our freedom and allow ourselves to become slaves to sin. Christ died and rose again so that we could live free—don’t waste it! You may have to change your friends and the places you visit in order to avoid temptation while you are growing in the Lord. Remember, the devil hates you and doesn’t want you to succeed; he will send the wrong people at just the right time to tempt you. The Lord loves you, but He will not force you to love Him back. He is calling your name right now offering His help... Just trust Him to work it all out. When you trust the Lord, the Bible says that you will have Perfect Peace!

James 4:7

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

To “submit” to God is to follow His desires for you with obedience and love. When you do this, you will have the privilege to walk in His power and authority. The devil will run from that in fear!

2 Corinthians 4:16

“So we’re not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace.”

No matter how bad things get around you, remember that Jesus made you a promise to never leave you and to take care of you. Give Him time to work it out and allow the Holy Spirit to comfort you as He does!

Hebrews 12:1

“...Let us put everything out of our lives that keeps us from doing what we should. Let us keep running in the race that God has planned for us.”

Stand strong and firm knowing that you ARE different now. Turn away from what you used to do before and the Lord will honor your devotion to Him and help you to keep going forward with power in your new life! Remember, the devil is a liar. If he puts confusion, temptation and fear in your path – don't ask him to go – tell him to, in the name of Jesus and he will! The name of Jesus has overcome every evil force already!

7. FELLOWSHIP with members of the Body of Christ

Spend time with people who love Jesus and are living for Him.

Hebrews 10:24-25

“Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of Christ's returning is drawing near.”

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Revelation 12:11

“And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, (Jesus) and by the word of their testimony...”

1 Corinthians 10:11

“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

As we join together, we can tell of the goodness of the Lord, worship Him together, give testimonies of His faithfulness, encourage one another in Christ and learn from what others have gone through. We are not to make an occupation out of telling all the horrible things we used to do before, but rather spend our time telling of the goodness of the Lord and what great things He has brought us into now.

Additional Resources:

Conquest of Canaan, by Jessie Penn-Lewis

Life of Christ, Bible Study Workbook by Tony Salerno

Overcoming Addictive Behavior, by Neil T. Anderson

Breaking Free, by Russell Willingham

For help to walk out of your anxiety and depression, please go to:

www.stresscenter.com, The Midwest Center for Anxiety and Depression.

Addictive Behavior Counseling: Russell Willingham can be reached at 559-227-1066, or www.ncmfresno.org.

Ephesians 6:10-19

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world AND against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...”

We pray blessings into your life as you walk with Jesus Christ! May you run the race with purpose and finish your course with excellence! Let us know how you are doing, because we love you and will be praying for you.

Your friend in the love of Jesus Christ,
Rev. Sandi Querin