

NOT a Spirit of Bondage (Romans 8:15-17)

Introduction:

4 minutes

Prayer.

- “You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”(Romans 8:15-17 NKJV)

This is TRUTH. I want to partner with the Holy Spirit in speaking truth over you. I want to expose lies and speak truth.

Lies keeps you in bondage, but the truth sets you free FROM bondage, and free TO adoption (and everything that comes with it).

Mark 5

- “They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid....
- When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had

suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

- While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). **(Mark 5 NIV)**
- A demon possessed man.
- A sick woman.
- And a helpless child.
- Every single one of these a situations was impossible to fix aside from the power and presence of God.
- All of them STUCK in their own right with no way out.
- **Hosea 2: "God opens up a doorway of hope in the valley of trouble."**
- **When there seems to be no way out, God shows up makes a way.**
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- You feel like you CAN'T (fill in the blank). "I just can't _____"
- Your life has written a reality for you that you live in, and it is a reality where you are bound up, and don't know how to get free, but **God wants to re-write your reality.**
- Your circumstances have hard wired connections...
- But unless those connections are rewired...
- **I have seen (even this week) that God can bring that kind of breakthrough** in people's lives that took us hours and hours of therapy and thousands of dollars, in 3 minutes in the presence of God, with a handful of words and a very simple prayer.
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- Woman who was bleeding for 12 years... She didn't even TOUCH Jesus. She didn't even TALK to Jesus. She just got NEAR HIM. Just being in His vicinity she was healed. She was in the presence of Jesus and everything changed for her.
- **Psalms 97:5** says that "**Mountains MELT LIKE WAX in the presence of God.**"
- When God shows up, things that SEEM IMMOVEABLE start dissipating.

- **One touch from God can deliver the most tormented far off lost cause.**
- One SPIRIT -FILLED word can rewire a lifetime of traumatic experiences.
- One word from Jesus can resurrect what once was dead with seemingly no hope.
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- *Story of vision...*
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- Those dark hidden places somehow start to feel comfortable and almost safe.
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- I know how terrifying it can be to let go of something that has lived with you for years and years, even when you KNOW that it's killing you inside and holding you back from receiving all that that God has for you.
- For me it was deep deep bitterness and resentment...
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- **I know what it's like** to have the darkness and the bondage and the STUCK-ness become so deeply a part of you that it seems more frightening to be free from it, than to live with it.
- **But God has not given us a spirit of bondage leading to fear. But a Spirit of adoption.**
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- It is not the will of God for His children to live in bondage.
- Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.
- And we are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
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- Two steps: That verse says "NOT a Spirit of Bondage. But YES a Spirit of adoption."

Two things. A Stepping **out** of the spirit of bondage. Stepping into the adoption.

- **And some of you are aware of this. And some of you are not.**
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- There's no shame in admitting that something is not like it should be.
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- "So how would I know if I was stuck or not totally free?"
- If the opposite of bondage is being a freed child of God then **you should be experiencing everything that comes with being a freed child of God:**
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- **A FREED child of God should be experiencing:**
 - An awareness of His presence
 - Joy in the midst of trials
 - A longing for deeper intimacy and relationship with Him
 - A sense of acceptance and love from Him
 - Security in your identity
 - Supernatural power
 - The fruit of the Spirit
 - An awareness of His love and care for you
 - A desire to be used by Him

- A passion to see others know Him and grow in Him
- A willingness to follow and be led by Him
- A willingness to fully trust him and give up control to him

A NOT-SO-FREE child of God would be experiencing:

- Lack a desire for more of God
- A continual falling back into the same unhealthy patterns
- Lack of joy and trust in the midst of trials
- Prolonged hopeless
- Fear that prevents obedience
- Not regularly (or ever) experiencing the presence of God in a tangible way
- Little or no desire for God to move powerfully in and through your life
- Difficulty crying
- Uncomfortableness with emotional situations or conversations
- Inability to let people to get too close
- Unwillingness to allow others to deeply know you

If several or all of these things describe you, it's not that you're NOT a child. But those are not symptoms of a FREED child of God. Those are symptoms of a child in bondage.

And you may not realize it, but you've gotten used to a reality where you're living LIFE, but not abundant life.

- And it's like walking around with a strait jacket. You're still walking. But man is there so much for you to experience.
- **Isaiah 61** says that God wants to exchange clothes of ashes for crowns of beauty, bondage for freedom, sadness for favor and blessing. And provide joy for those who have been crying; give dancing instead of despair. Healing for the heartbroken. Abundance of blessing instead of shame. And free freedom for captives.
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- **Did you here the exchange there?**
- **Is. 61 shows us that God is a God of of exchange. He takes one thing and gives you another.**
- **It's not JUST that** God has NOT given us a Spirit of bondage. But that He **HAS** given us a Spirit of adoption.
- **You need the truth of who you ARE spoken OVER you, and the truth of who ARE NOT needs to be spoken OFF of you.**
- **You need to partner with Jesus by stepping OUT of the bondage of those LIES and INTO the TRUTH of who you are in Christ.**

ARE NOT:

- defined by your sin or the sin of others
- Identity is NOT “sinner” (new creation)
- failure
- unlovable
- invaluable
- unworthy of love
 - do you realize how in love with you God is?
- mistake
 - fearfully and wonderfully made
- defeated
- a slave to fear
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- NOT deserve to be punished
 - JESUS was punished on your behalf
 - NOT a lost cause
 - Jesus left the 99 to find you when you were lost
- NOT not worth fighting for
 - Jesus gave everything had to fight for you AND WON
- NOT a victim of your past
 - YOU are victorious over your past (because you are seated with Jesus in heavenly places)
- NOT a slave to those things that happened to you, or around you
 - The one that the Son sets free is FREE INDEED
 - The Spirit of FEAR that you live under NOT the HOME that God has for you
 - He has adopted YOU as HIS OWN and YOU LIVE in HIS HOUSE where there is FULNESS of Joy and pleasures for evermore.
- NOT starved for attention or not worth the time
- Your heavenly Father has more thoughts about you than there is grains of sand on every shore of every sea. And His thoughts toward you ARE GOOD.

ARE:

- Beloved Child of God
- God displays his glory through you
- NOT defined by failure but Christ’s finished work on the cross
- perfected forever (because of Christ’s finished work)
- more than a conquer (not defeated)
- God’s treasure and masterpiece (not a mistake)
- **wanted** by God and **chosen** by God
- Victorious as a son or daughter of the King
- You have authority as a child of God
- Have power (same resurrection power working in you)

- Not a SLAVE
 - ARE a child of God
- NOT unseen or unnoticed
- God Sings, (literally) twirls about over you.
- Keeps your tears in a bottle

- **“Where was God when...”**
- **“BEHOLD I am with you ALWAYS, even until the end of the age.”**
- **God didn’t abandon you. He was right there all along. He NEVER left. And HE HASN’T LEFT.**
 - *Twins (God told us then it miscarriage)*
 - *Daisy (telling Selah)*
 - *Nehemiah (as organs failed)*
 - *Childhood (verbal abuse)*

- God didn’t abandon you. You are not alone. You are seen by God. You are loved by God. Treasured and valued by Him. You are worth the fight every time. **Ephesians 2** says that you are God’s masterpiece. You are his POEMA. You are His Magnum Opus.
- **Eph. 1:19** says that you are God’s INHERITANCE. You are what He gets at the end of time!
- The God who needs nothing and lacks nothing— you are HIS INHERITANCE. That’s how valued and treasured you are by God.
- Did someone tell you that your worthy? Or you weren’t good enough. Or that you’ll never amount to anything?
- **God has something different to say about you.**
- **And you need to hear what God says about who are** (Many been listening to lies about who you are. Today you need to hear what God has to say about you.)
- And don’t tell me you don’t how to hear God. Yes you do! Stop and listen.
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- And how will know that it’s God? It WON’T produce in you **condemnation or shame**.
- It WON’T produce in you **fear**. (his perfect love casts out fear)
- It won’t created **heaviness or anxiety** because God REMOVES a Spirit of **heaviness**. Jesus TAKES away heavy burdens.

- Allow God to speak truth over you today. Allow him to free you from those lie and INTO the truth. From the bondage and INTO the adoption.
- **God is not just wanting to set you free FROM who you are NOT. He is also wanting to set free INTO who you ARE.**

- God is not just inviting you to get free from the strait jacket or to JUST remove the shackles but to step INTO His love and freedom.
- God is a God of extravagance.

- Children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, He didn't JUST set them free. He brought them INTO the promised land - a good and spacious land, a land flowing milk and honey.
- **God always delivers people TO something, not just FROM something.**
- And **Isaiah 30** says that He is waiting on high to do it. **God waits on high to be gracious to you.**
- A few year ago, I made a BUNCH of money on a big Brazil tour...
- Christmas...
- That's what God does.
- Waiting to give to you...
- **But participation is required.**
- **In order to receive you also have to release.**
- Jesus said **Luke 13:34: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"**
- He wanted to do it. But because of their unwillingness they missed out on what God was wanting to do. We must be willing to step out of the claws of bondage and into the arms Jesus; from slavery to sonship.
- **Notice how that woman in Mark 5** who had been bleeding for 12 years didn't just stay at home **hoping** that eventually she'd get healed someday, or that Jesus would show up at her doorstep.
- She knew Jesus could do it so SHE stepped out and responded to what was true about Him. You gotta step out today.
- Almost every time we see Jesus healing people there is a partnership between HIS power and THIER faith in Him. How many times did Jesus say, **"Your faith has made you well?"**
- Now it doesn't have to be A LOT of faith. It's not about the size of our faith. It's about **object** of our faith.
- But it DOES have to be enough faith to get you out of your seat and walking toward Jesus. It DOES have to be enough faith to cause you to DO SOMETHING.
- And it's ok if you don't fully understand what's happening or even what you need today. That's ok.
- **You don't have to understand everything in order to receive.**
- But you do have to participate.

Colossians 1:12b-13: "He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son."