

## Unlocking Freedom In Your Life, Part :11 Freedom in Your Future!!

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **This Week: Freedom in Your Future!**
- 3 ways Jesus sets us free from sin: past sins, other people's sins, our future sins.
  - o This week: Free from repeating the same mistakes and Free from the nagging/gnawing call of sin.
- Do you want to be blessed by God? Yes, you do! That is not selfish!!
  - o Take this blessing: **Acts 3:26**.
    - This is a blessing, not a curse. Do you agree? Remember the Devil's Schemes?
- Did you know that Christians are supposed to live right?
  - o Non-Christians hold Christians to a high standard. (hypocrite talk)
  - o Christians hold other Christians to a high standard! (more hypocrite talk)
  - o What does God expect?
    - **1 John 3:5-6**. This describes our future sins being taken away...
      - **1 John 3:7-10** is very strong. Wow.
    - AND we can do it!! **2 Peter 1:3-4**
    - Did you know you have everything you need to live a Godly life?????
- Every Christian deals with the struggle to live a Godly life instead of doing wrong.
  - o We can respond to this struggle in a variety of ways: (what else can you think of?)
    - Apathy: we all sin thousands of times a day anyway...I'll just get forgiven anyway so it doesn't matter...etc.
    - Hopelessness: try and try but give up in despair after repeated failures.
    - Legalism: shame and willpower are the only tools in this tool box.
    - Pretending: assume everyone is faking it, so fake it too...
    - These are all bad so there must be something else!
- Paul deals with this issue in **Romans 7:14-8:17**.
  - o The struggle. **Romans 7:14-24**
    - Important identity distinction in **Romans 7:20**. Does your sin define you?
  - o Forgiveness. **Romans 7:25-8:1**.
    - No condemnation!! We are saved by grace through faith!!
  - o True Freedom. **Romans 8:2-4**.
    - Sin is condemned but we are left whole!! (v3)
    - How is the law powerless but the Spirit prevails??
  - o The way of the Spirit. **Romans 8:5-11**
    - Mere theological ascension to the Holy Spirit is not enough. You need the indwelling of the Spirit to change your heart over time!
  - o Promises and Obligations. **Romans 8:12-17**
    - Promises: No fear. Assurance of being a child of God. Co-heirs with Christ.
    - Obligations: Live according to the Spirit. Fight the good fight and suffer with Jesus.
- What do we learn when we open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit? **Romans 8:9**
  - o "Lives in you" means "occupy a house." How does this apply to **Matthew 12:43-45**?
  - o When we succeed the gnawing of sin goes away.
  - o The way you see people and the world changes.
  - o Takes continual connection with God. "be being filled" It can be a long process.
  - o Willpower is still involved, but in a preliminary way.
    - Fight to open your heart to God, but then the fruit is just added.
  - o What else have you learned as you have opened yourself up to the Holy Spirit?
- We are set free from our future sins by receiving and following the Holy Spirit.
  - o Willpower alone won't do it. Intellectual understanding alone won't do it.
  - o We need to drink of the Spirit. **John 7:37-39**. Are you thirsty? Go to Jesus and take a drink!
  - o Pray for each other before you finish up!