

Celebration Service (September 2 & 3, 2006)
"Freedom and the Fear Factor"

Freedom Series (Pt. 8)

Gal 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery"
PREMISE #1: Part of the Mission of Christ was to Obtain Our Freedom

For this Christ died for this He rose for this He sent you His Holy Spirit; there is nothing under the glory of His own name that He wills with more intensity than your freedom." John Piper

Jn 10:10 "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

PREMISE #2: The thief is seeking to STEAL Your Freedom... Kill your Freedom... DESTROY your freedom

Jn 8:33 "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

PREMISE #3: Knowing & Believing the Right Thing Precedes Freedom

*There is no such thing as right living without right believing."
J.C. Ryle, "Aspects of Holiness", p. 40*

PREVIOUS AREAS OF BIBLICAL INSIGHT WE'VE EXPLORED:

1. The Hurricane Illustration

- Understand Your "LOW PRESSURE AREAS" (where are you most likely to struggle)
- Understand the Necessity of "SHEAR WINDS" (Spiritual Disciplines are not Optional)

2. The Bait Illustration

- We do what we "WANT" to do. Our Affections, therefore, must become Convinced of the REWARD of God's Promises!

Today.... a 3rd Area of Biblical Insight— The Role of FEAR in Restricting Freedom

FEAR AND THE THREAT OF LOSING LIFE

Heb 2:14-15 "Since the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

FEAR & DEATH

At the heart of Enslaving Fear is the thought that I'm going to Lose Something I NEED! Something Essential to My Life— My Well Being.

... Today, People are Afraid of the Loss of:

Health ("For life to be good we must be healthy")

Money or Possessions ("For life to be good we must have Certain Items or Lifestyle")

The Affections or Acceptance of Others (From a High School Clique ... to a GANG ... to a Country Club... or a CHURCH — We want some Particular Group to Validate Us)— "For Life to be Good"

The Respect or Admiration of Others

SUMMARY: *The Tyrant of Fear is Connected to "DEATH"* (The Loss of "LIFE"— whatever I've Defined as "Life")

... *Raises the QUESTION: "What Do I 'Need' for a Good Life?"*

Jn 10:10 "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

2Pet :3-4

CAREFULLY MANAGING LIFE'S 'NECESSITIES'

Matt 6:31-33

QUICK OBSERVATIONS

1. There are Legitimate NEEDS Present in Our Lives

– But there are Also ILLEGITIMATE NEEDS being Promoted Today (more WANTS than God Designed NEEDS):

The list of psychological needs can be a long one, but they typically have to do with what we want in relationships: significance, acceptance, respect, admiration, love, belonging, meaning, and so on. ... Longings have much in common with lust. They start out good (a desire to be loved) and end up enslaving us. To elevate our desire for love, impact and other pleasures to the point where they become needs or longings is to sinfully exalt desire so that it becomes a delirium of desire. It is to yell out, "I want!" "I must have!" "My desires are the basic building blocks of my world! Ed Welch, "When People are Big and God is Small", p. 139, 149

2. We Are Commanded Not to be ANXIOUS over Needs (Needs = NO FEAR Zone)

– "*Gentile Anxiety*" = the Busy Life of MENTAL GYMNASTICS

3. Our Responsibility is to FOCUS on God

– The Call of Being *MENTALLY BUSY with Who God is & What He Is Doing*

4. His Responsibility is to Meet Our Needs — HIS WAY

BIBLICALLY MET "NEEDS"

My Love Need

The Bible actually talks about **My Need to LOVE GOD & OTHERS** — It doesn't focus my attention on My Need to Be Loved

One Could Say we **Do NEED GOD's LOVE** (Since we actually do Need God)

My Acceptance Need ... But not the Acceptance of Sinful Man!

God's Way of Meeting That Need = God offers His PERFECT Forgiveness & Acceptance

I Don't "NEED" You or That

Phil 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Ps 34:9 Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear him lack nothing

GOD is My Source ... Not People or Circumstances

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey,

God can choose to use people & circumstances in my life, or he can choose Another Means, but all along the way I Must Remain Convinced that HE IS MY SOURCE!!

FREEDOM FROM A PARASITE LIFESTYLE

I can be doing "GENTILE GYMNASTICS" in my mind (Anxious about People & Things that I've Made My SOURCE - my HOST) or I Can Put my Trust in GOD has My Source of Life