

BREAKING FREE 2 – Freedom in the Truth

In all likelihood, there is at least some GAP between what CHRIST has PROVIDED & how we're ACTUALLY LIVING.

→ *If you're honest, how big is your 'gap'? Is it getting smaller or bigger?*

THE CHAINS

1. PAIN from the past
2. Toxic WORLDLY INFLUENCES
3. LIES we've BOUGHT INTO

→ *How strong are these three influences on the way you think? Is there any unresolved baggage? What worldly influences do Christians tend to struggle with? How resistant is your mind to the Enemy's lies?*

THE LIAR (John 8:44) → The enemy is a LIAR by NATURE & because he knows we're FREE in Christ, he uses DECEPTION to lure us back into various traps & snares.

* The essence of spiritual warfare is the battle for TRUTH.

→ *Why is this battle so pivotal in your ability to win in the arena of spiritual warfare? What truth is the Enemy gunning for? What rugs, if he can pull them out from under your feet, have the power to sabotage your life?*

4 CATEGORIES of Lies

1. BELIEVABLE lies: Lies HIDDEN in a degree of TRUTH.
2. SEDUCTIVE lies: Lies that APPEAL to your FLESH.
→ *Explain how the Enemy uses these & give some examples.*
3. RELATIVE truth: You get to CHOOSE what's true for you.
4. POPULIST truth: Not just you're free to choose what you believe, but now we're telling you that you MUST believe it!

→ *What is the Enemy's agenda here? How has his campaign unfolded over the last, say, 60 years? What is his end goal?*

LIES WE SOMETIMES BELIEVE (From NT Anderson's 'Steps to Freedom in Christ')

1. Believing that acquiring money & things will bring me lasting happiness.
2. Believing that excessive food & alcohol can relieve my stress & make me happy.
3. Believing that an attractive body & personality will get me what I want.
4. Believing that gratifying sexual lust will bring lasting satisfaction.
5. Believing that I can sin & get away with the negative consequences.
6. Believing that I can associate with bad company & not become corrupted.
7. Believing that I can read, see or listen to anything & not become defiled.
8. Believing that I must gain the approval of certain people in order to be happy.
9. Believing that I must measure up to certain standards in order to feel good about myself.

→ *Do you ever buy into any of these? Which are the most seductive?*

JOHN 8:32

BIG IDEA: Truth LIBERATES always; deception BINDS always.

- * Key to living free is to DEBUNK & DISEMPOWER the LIES that have TAKEN ROOT in your psyche.
- * To KNOW means REALLY know: not just INTELLECTUALLY, but DEEPLY, PERSONALLY, EXPERIENTIALLY.

→ *Why do people often only part-quote this verse ('The truth will set you free') and what do they miss when they do?*

1. Truth must be EXPERIENCED (Psalm 34:8)
2. Truth must be ENGRAFTED (James 1:21)
3. Truth must be EXERCISED (Josh 1:8)

→ *Explain how each of these steps are crucial in the 'mind renewing, brainwashing & truth saturation.'*

→ *What is mind renewing? Why must it be a brainwashing (in spite of some of the negative connotations in that concept)?*

If we're going to win the battle, we'll need a MIND RENEWING, BRAINWASHING, TRUTH SATURATION.

BIG LIE = You're supposed to be PERFECT this side of Heaven (and if you're not, God will turn away from you).

* Like all CONVINCING lies, it has its basis in TRUTH.

→ *Do you believe that lie (and the extension: God turns away)? What about the sub-lies below?*

→ *What are the bases / elements of truth upon which makes the big lie seem plausible?*

→ *What behaviours do Christians tend to adopt as they buy into the lie?*

The SUB-LIES

1. If you're not stressed, you're obviously not taking it seriously enough.
2. If you're not rushed off your feet, people will assume you're irrelevant.
3. God will only jump in to help you if your performance reaches certain level.
4. God only uses perfect people.

The TRUTH

- A. It's not so much about YOU, but the TREASURE within the JAR of CLAY.
- B. It's not going to be your WONDERFUL EFFORT, but YIELDING to the OVERFLOW of GRACE.

C. What God really wants is your HEART, not your SWEAT.

D. God doesn't need you to be PERFECT, just WILLING & RESPONSIVE.

→ *How do each of the 4 counter-truths above debunk & disempower the big lie? How does the big lie contradict the message of the gospel?*

→ *In summary, what's your primary take-away from this message?*