

BREAKING FREE 4 – Freedom in the Word

BIG IDEA

The reason we live bound up is that we give too much AUTHORITY to our THOUGHTS & EMOTIONS & not enough to the WORD of GOD.

- * We FEED the doubts, anxieties & fears, MAGNIFY them out of proportion & then listen to the EMOTIONS until they end up DRIVING, MANIPULATING & SETTING THE TONE.
- * Because we give them DOMINANCE, they start to TAKE OVER.

KEY: Freedom will be found when we give that degree of AUTHORITY & DOMINANCE to the WORD, instead.

- * You will become SUBJECT to, DOMINATED by, even ENSLAVED by whatever you give AUTHORITY to.

→ *In what ways have you noticed your thoughts or emotions setting the tone in your life?*

→ *What happens when we magnify our fears instead of submitting them to God's Word?*

→ *Can you identify a recent moment when you allowed your emotions to drive your decisions? How could that have changed if God's Word had taken authority instead?*

The AUTHORITY SHIFT

On the Cross, Jesus RECLAIMED the authority Adam & Eve had SURRENDERED in the Garden.

- * Good News: The AUTHORITY is BACK in YOUR hands.
 - * The Question is: WHAT are you going to DO with it?
- Gal 5:1: If we're not CAREFUL, if we don't DO what the WORD says, we hand that authority STRAIGHT BACK to the Enemy.

→ *How does understanding the authority Jesus reclaimed for us change how you view of how you defeat the enemy & his tempting thoughts?*

→ *Galatians 5:1 says, "Stand firm, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." What are some ways we unknowingly give authority back to the enemy?*

EXAMPLE 1: Cast your cares on the Lord (1 Pet 5:7, Psalm 55:22)

- * It doesn't say, think about it over & over again, until it becomes an enormous MOUNTAIN casting a huge imposing SHADOW.
 - * It says, CAST your CARES on the LORD.
- *Why do you think we sometimes prefer to dwell on our anxieties rather than give them to God?*
- *What is one care or concern you're currently holding onto that needs to be cast onto the Lord?*

EXAMPLE 2: You CAN do it (Phil 4:13)

- * How often do you let your thoughts & emotions CONVINC you that you CAN'T?
 - * It's not about what your THOUGHTS say or your EMOTIONS say. What does the WORD say? = You CAN.
- *How often do your emotions contradict what God says is true about you?*
- *What are some examples of areas in your life where you've said, 'I can't,' but Scripture says, 'You can?'*

The THEOLOGY that drives the PRACTICE

1. HIDE the WORD in your HEART (Ps 119:11, Col 3:16)

- * LET: Make a conscious DECISION to put the Word FIRST.
 - * WORD of CHRIST: Something is going to be digging its roots deep into your psyche, so make sure it's the WORD of CHRIST.
 - * DWELL IN YOU RICHLY: Does it? Is it an OCCASIONAL VISITOR or has it taken up PERMANENT RESIDENCE?
- *How can you move from being a casual hearer of the Word to someone in whom the Word takes permanent residence?*
- *What daily rhythms help you 'hide the Word' in your heart?*

2. Place it as a GUARD over your MIND (Ps 119:9, 2 Cor 10:3-5)

- * What do you do with those swirling THOUGHTS? Do you LET THEM IN or TAKE THEM CAPTIVE?
- *How can Scripture act as a 'guard' when anxious or tempting thoughts come your way?*
- *Are there any 'thought gates' you've left open that need to be closed by the Word?*

God has given us FILTERS to pass every thought through

- i) The WORD of God ... The TRUTH
- ii) The NAME of Jesus ... AUTHORITY
- iii) The BLOOD of the Lamb ... The CROSS

So, everything gets measured against

- i) What does the WORD of TRUTH say?
- ii) What does it look like if God really is LORD & KING?
- iii) What has the CROSS accomplished?

→ *Are these three test questions helpful, and, if so, why? When a thought enters your mind, how can you practically test it against these three filters?*

→ *Craig Groeschel's 'Christian Atheist' says, "Why would I accept what Christ has done for me & then act as if He hadn't?" Do you ever do that, how & why? How acting as though He had help to close the 'gap?'*