

## **DAY 1: SINCE JESUS HAS SET ME FREE, I WILL MAKE SURE THAT I STAY FREE AND NOT GET TIED AGAIN IN SLAVERY LEST I LOSE MY MARK OF QUALITY**

**Key Text:** Galatians 5:1

*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

### **Introduction**

Freedom is one of the most cherished values in the world. People fight wars, protest, and even sacrifice their lives to secure freedom. Yet, there is a greater freedom—freedom in Christ—that transcends any earthly liberation. Paul writes to the Galatians to remind them of this spiritual freedom. But, just as it is easy to slip back into chains, the Galatians were at risk of abandoning the gospel's freedom for the bondage of legalism.

Paul uses the metaphor of a yoke—a heavy wooden beam used to harness animals—to describe this return to slavery. Imagine being set free from carrying a heavy burden only to willingly pick it up again. It makes no sense! Yet many Christians do this when they revert to sin or legalism. Today's message reminds us to cherish and guard the freedom Christ has given us.



*Christ has opened the door to true freedom—step into His light.*

### **Understanding Freedom in Christ**

#### **1. Freedom from the Penalty of Sin:**

- Before Christ, we were condemned by our sins and destined for eternal separation from God. Romans 6:23 says, *"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- When Jesus died on the cross, He bore the punishment we deserved. This means we are no longer guilty in the eyes of God (Romans 8:1).

#### **2. Freedom from the Power of Sin:**

- Sin no longer controls us. Galatians 2:20 declares, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*
- This doesn't mean we won't struggle with sin, but we now have the power to overcome it through the Holy Spirit.

### 3. Freedom to Live in Obedience and Love:

- True freedom isn't about doing whatever we want; it's about living according to God's purpose. John 8:36 assures us, *"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*
- This freedom leads to joy and peace because we are aligned with God's will.

## What Is the Yoke of Slavery?

### 1. Legalism:

- Legalism says we must earn God's approval by following rules and traditions. It shifts the focus from Christ's sacrifice to our own works.
- Paul warns against this in Galatians 3:3: *"After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?"*

### 2. Sin:

- Sin enslaves us by separating us from God and trapping us in destructive patterns. Jesus came to break those chains (Romans 6:14).
- Returning to sin after salvation is like a dog returning to its vomit (Proverbs 26:11).



*Through Christ, we are set free from the bondage of sin.*

## How to Stand Firm in Freedom

### 1. Stay Grounded in the Word of God:

- Psalm 119:105 says, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*
- The Bible equips us to recognize and resist false teachings that threaten our freedom.

### 2. Surround Yourself with a Community of Faith:

- Hebrews 10:25 urges believers to meet together for encouragement. Isolation makes us vulnerable to attack.
3. **Pray for the Strength to Resist Temptation:**
- Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 26:41, *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."* Prayer keeps us connected to God's power.

### **Living as Free People**

1. **Freedom Is Not a License to Sin:**
  - Paul warns in Galatians 5:13: *"Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*
  - True freedom results in righteous living, not self-indulgence.
2. **Freedom Empowers Us to Serve Others:**
  - Jesus modeled servant leadership (John 13:14-15). Our freedom enables us to love and help others without expecting anything in return.

### **Call to Action**

Reflect:

- Are there areas in your life where you've willingly returned to bondage?
- Commit today to stand firm in the freedom Christ has given you.