

7 Days of Freedom, Day 7: Serve



For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5: 13

serve [surv]

verb

1. to act as a servant
2. to render assistance; be of use; help
3. to have definite use
4. to render active service to
5. to perform the duties of (a position, an office, etc.)

Independence Day is the celebration of the birth of the United States of America. It marks the day our founding fathers declared the colonies to be a free and independent nation apart from the rule of England. Freed from service to England, the colonists could enjoy “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

As Americans, the freedoms bestowed upon us by our Constitution allow the opportunity to live and work as we

choose. Freedom is what makes our country great. God has also given us freedom, but according to our verse, we haven't been freed to live for ourselves. We have been freed from the tyranny of sin and self to **serve** God and others. Please read the verse above again and notice the connection between *liberty* and **serve**. What is the basis for the giving of self through service? Love.

In the Greek, **serve** means: to be a slave (a very unpopular term for Americans), to **serve**, to do service, to zealously advance the interests of anything; devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests.

As Christians, we need to devote ourselves to **serve** God and others, and to the advancement of His kingdom on earth. How can I **serve** my family? How can I help my neighbors? How can I use my gifts to share the Gospel? How can I give to the hungry? By asking these questions, and praying for God to bring us opportunities, we can live a life of service.

Action Points:

1. Take a walk through your neighborhood or town and ask God to open your eyes to the needs of others.
2. Today, identify and act on a way to serve a family member, a coworker and a neighbor.
3. Ask God to show what selfish attitudes or habits you need to be freed from so you can serve others.
4. Please take several moments to pray for our service men and women who serve their country and put themselves in harm's way that we may be free.

God Bless America.

Mary Kane

“serve.” *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 02 Jul. 2015. <Dictionary.com http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/serve>.

7 Days of Freedom, Day 6: The Law



For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2

law¹ [law]

noun

1. the principles and regulations established in a community by some authority and applicable to its

people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision

2. the controlling influence of such rules; the condition of society brought about by their observance
3. a system or collection of such rules

THE LAW has always been a big scary concept to me. As a recovering worrier, I have often been afraid of breaking a LAW I did not know existed ... as you know ignorance of the LAW is no excuse. God, however, hides His **law** from no one. In the Old Testament, He clearly spells out the Ten Commandments. In the New Testament, He shortens the Ten Commandments to two: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Love God, love others.

In the Greek, **law** transliterates as *nomos* which means a precept, an injunction, a rule of action, a set of behaviors that leads to God's approval. *Torah*, the Hebrew word for **law**, refers to Mosaic **law**. It is by the flawless keeping of God's **law** one may go to heaven ... unfortunately, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Even the keeping of the New Testament *short list* (see above) is an impossibility. Fortunately, God's Word offers us something besides the LAW of sin and death ... the **law** of the Spirit of life, otherwise known as **GRACE**.

Because Christ offered His perfect sinless life as a sacrifice, we may live for Christ, and one day join Him in heaven. We must acknowledge our sin and need for a Savior, and accept Jesus death on the cross as payment for our sin.

Grace over LAW. Life over death. Righteousness over sin.

Action Points:

1. In what ways are you still trying to earn God's

approval?

2. You know God's law, the one you broke about twenty years ago, that you think is unforgivable? It was paid for 2,000 years ago at the cross. It's time to let it go. Thank God for His forgiveness and sacrifice.
3. Now that you're free, what do you need to start doing?

God Bless America.

Mary Kane

Please enjoy the music below.

"law." *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 01 Jul. 2015. <Dictionary.com
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/law>>.

7 Days of Freedom, Day 5: Stand Firm



For freedom Christ has set us free;

stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

firm [firm]

adjective:

1. not soft or yielding when pressed; comparatively solid, hard, stiff, or rigid
2. securely fixed in place
3. indicating firmness or determination

What is the first directive God give in Galatians 5:1? He asks us to **stand firm**. Notice God does not ask us to fight, run, or sprint, but to **stand firm**. In the Greek, **stand firm** transliterates as *steko*, which means, *to be firm, to persist, to persevere, to be stationary*. Thayer's Lexicon gives us the prescription of how to **stand firm**: *to persevere in godliness and fellowship with the Lord*. When we face temptation, despite our feelings, we need to continuously obey God's Word and consistently meet with Him. In short, follow and fellowship. **Stand firm.**

When we trace *steko* back to its root, it also means "to have a steadfast mind."

Standing firm isn't so much a position of body, but of mind.



Tweet This

After we have been freed from sin by Christ, under what conditions can we be subjected again to slavery? If we *move* ... if we do not **stand firm**.

Why has Christ set us free? So we can be free ... free to love Him, free to serve Him, free to take His message to the lost of the world.

Over the holiday weekend please take time to pray for our nation's citizens and leaders, that we will **stand firm** in the Biblical truths that shaped and formed our great nation.

Action Points

1. In order to pray and act efficiently, we must be informed. Please click on the following link to read about current hot-topic issues in the United States.
[Citizen Link](#)
2. Is there an area of your life you need to *firm-up*? What steps do you need to take to **stand firm**?
3. How can you help your family **stand firm**?

Please enjoy the music below.

God Bless America.

Mary Kane

"firm." *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 28 Jun. 2015. <Dictionary.com

7 Days of Freedom, Day 4: Glory Hallelujah!



16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

glory [glawr-ee, glohr-ee]

noun

1. very great praise, honor, or distinction bestowed by common consent; renown
2. adoring praise or worshipful thanksgiving
3. a state of great splendor, magnificence, or prosperity

4. the splendor and bliss of heaven; heaven

In the original Greek, **glory** descends from the word *doxa*, which means *magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace; a thing belonging to God (emphasis mine)*. Because **glory** belongs to God, **it** is a word that is uncommon to the current culture. The less *God we allow*, the less **glory** will be revealed.

In the Old Testament, God's *shekinah* **glory** appeared as a consuming fire, a pillar of cloud, or brilliant light. *Shekinah*, a Hebrew word for glory, descends from the word *shachan*, which means *to dwell or tabernacle*. In the Old Testament, God's **glory** dwelt between the cherubim. In the New Testament, God's **glory** tabernacles with men, by the indwelling presence of His Spirit in the heart of each believer. Hallelujah!

According to the verse above, when we accept Jesus as our Savior, the veil is lifted, and we see the **glory** of God. Matthew Henry states, *"This light [glory] and liberty are transforming; we are changed into the same image, from glory to glory (v. 18), from one degree of glorious grace unto another, till grace here be consummated in glory for ever."* And as we are transformed, we reflect His **glory** to those around us.

Trying to define God's **glory** is like trying to capture the wind. Who can explain it?

There are a few things I have learned over the years about God's **glory**. There are as follows:

1. God will share His glory with no one.
2. By using our gifts, we can bring God great glory.
3. We are to do all things to the glory of God.
4. In our present state, we cannot see the full-on glory of God and live.
5. The earth is full of God's glory.

Glory refers to God's perfectness, power, holiness, and goodness, in short His God-ness. If we were able to explain His **glory**, we would be able to explain God Himself. The Great I AM. That is perhaps the best explanation **glory** ... it is who He is. **Glory Hallelujah!**

Action Points:

1. How can you use your gifts to bring God glory?
2. How can you glorify God in your present challenge?
3. Look for God's glory today in nature and praise Him!

God Bless America.

Mary Kane

"glory." *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 30 Jun. 2015. <Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/glory>>.

Seven Days of Freedom, Day 3: Free



*Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.*

Psalm 118:5

free [free] adjective

1. enjoying personal rights or liberty, as a person who is not in slavery
2. pertaining to or reserved for those who enjoy personal liberty
3. clear of obstructions or obstacles, as a road or corridor
4. enjoying political autonomy, as a people or country not under foreign rule; independent

One of my European cousins has often commented on the American's obsession with freedom. I must admit, I love the freedoms granted by our Constitution. Why? Because freedom means choice. It means I am **free** to be who God created me to be.

Freedom is also a very important spiritual concept, more important than national freedom. In fact, a person cannot be completely **free** unless they have been set free from sin. Most Americans have not experienced the bondage of physical

slavery, but we all have been in bondage to sin. But because Jesus died for us on the cross, we have been set **free**.

The Hebrew word for *freedom* used in the verse above is *merchab* which means *a broad roomy place. or wide expanses*. *Merchab* is derived from the root word *rachab* which means *to grow large, to grow wide*. One of the things Jesus frees us from is *distresses, metsar* in the Hebrew. *Metsar*, which means *trouble, pains, or tight places*, when traced to its root also means, *stomach*. From the previous definitions, we can infer our worries keep us small, stunt our growth, hem us in, and tie our stomach in knots.

Ironically, Jesus sets us **free** so we can experience true freedom by becoming ... slaves of Christ. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. When Jesus sets us **free**, we are **free** indeed.

Action Points

1. A slave does the will of his Master. What area/s of life are you still controlling?
2. Because you are safe in the hands of your Master, what are you free to do?
3. What are the blessings of living according to the will of the Good Master?
4. How does being a slave of Christ bring freedom?

God Bless America.

Mary Kane

We hope you enjoy the music below.

"free." *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 28 Jun. 2015.

<[Dictionary.com
http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/firm](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/firm)>.

7 Days of Freedom, Day 2: Liberty



18 *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the
brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captive, and recovery of sight to
the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the
acceptable year of the LORD.
Luke 4:18-19*

liberty [lib-er-tee] Noun

1. freedom from captivity, confinement, or physical restraint
2. freedom or right to frequent or use a place
3. freedom from arbitrary or despotic government or control

The Greek transliterations for **liberty** is *aphesis*. In the Greek, *aphesis* means "release from bondage or imprisonment; forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty." Did you

notice the part in the parenthesis? God lets go our sins as if they had never been committed. Why does He allow this? Our sins have already been paid in full at the cross. According to the Dictionary.com definition, **liberty** means we have the “right to frequent or use a place.” Because of the cross, we have the **liberty** to *frequent* the throne of grace and boldly ask God to meet our needs.

The cry of the American patriot Patrick Henry, in the face of the American Revolution was, “Give me **liberty**, or give me death!” How prophetic. As Christians we have the same options: **liberty** or death. We choose.

Christ sets us free from sin so we have the **liberty** not to live for self (we already tried that once), but for Him. We have **liberty** to do good works, serve others, and take the Gospel of freedom to every nation on earth.

As we draw near to Independence Day, remember to thank God for not only for the **liberty** of our nation, but of our souls as well.

Action Points:

1. What is something you need to be set free from?
2. Who needs to hear about the liberty we have in Christ?
How can you share the Gospel with this person?
3. Pray for nations that are closed to the Gospel. To see a list of countries in need of prayer, please click on the following link: [Closed Countries](#)

Please enjoy the music below.

God Bless America.

Mary Kane

"liberty." *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. 28
Jun. 2015. <Dictionary.com
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/firm>>.