



“FREEDOM WALK”

By Mary Mayko 2005

2 Cor.3:17 NIV “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

John 8:32 NIV “Then you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free.”

John 8:36 NIV “So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

O Sweet Freedom! Something to enjoy and really celebrate! When we know the Truth, that sets us free through Christ the Son, we can walk in the peace that surpasses our natural understanding! *How amazing!* When we are set free from self effort and the guilt it produces, we find ourselves walking in the freedom that pleases God. We understand that He enables us to do the work He has for us to do with a confidence that *it will be accomplished in a way that honors the Lord!*

Don’t be deceived by any of Satan’s lies! He works on our minds and emotions to try to counter the Truth of God’s Word. His *purpose is to render us ineffective in our Christian Walk!* Many try to tell us it does not matter which religion we choose, as all roads lead to God! While they are entitled to that opinion, it does not mean all these kinds of ideas are correct! Many have a zeal for God, but fail to hold to the Word. *Liberal thinking has confused or deceived many into a false sense of freedom or liberty, only to find out too late they were wrong!*

Col.1:22-23a NIV “But now He has reconciled you by Christ’s physical Body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope of the gospel!”

Don’t allow anyone to move you away from the freedom we have in Christ! Beware of those who add any conditions to our salvation other than faith in Christ alone, or denies His Work on the Cross, and says His Atonement was not sufficient to save us! Rituals and Laws may be good if they point you to Christ and the Way He has set us free, but *if they bring you into bondage, you will find yourself in a painful prison!* Stand Firm! Guard your freedom in Christ!

Galatians 5:1 NIV “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 bondage.” [Vss. 13-14] “You, my brothers, were called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather serve one another in love. The Law is summed up in a single command: “love your neighbor as yourself.”

We are not set free to selfishly do whatever we want or to sin, but we are set *free to serve people without having a personal agenda* that only *we* can benefit from. Many use others to promote

themselves. Our focus must stay on the Lord! Some strong personalities can stress performance over our personal relationships with Christ! They *go to extremes* by too many demands, which people cannot meet, and are left feeling defeated and guilty. Others are deceived by some *“liberty or freedom”* that permits all kinds of actions that are not Scriptural. Remember we are to have a balanced walk! *Moderation in all things!*

Some are like Gideon, always looking for some *“sign or experience”* as proof of God’s approval! *Perhaps it is actually the weaker vessel that demands “signs” from God before they obey!* The Truth sets us free to obey God without having extra confirmations from sources other than the Lord! *Be careful of seeking spiritual excitement or feelings* for your guidance! While some people do have supernatural experiences, this is not the standard by which we live, God’s Word is! Answers to prayers and blessings come from the freedom we have in walking in His Truth!

Sometimes exciting spiritual experiences can lead a person to pride or *a feeling of being spiritually superior to those who have not had one like theirs!* Careful! God deals with us as individuals. He knows what our needs are and desires we seek Him, not some exciting event! The Freedom Walk is not living in some emotional *high*, but by walking in peace, joy and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom.6:22 NIV “But now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves to God, the benefits you reap leads to holiness and the result is eternal Life.”

Our *greatest growth* comes from standing fast in faith and obedience in spite of the trials we go through. *There are no victories without battles!* Don’t look at circumstances only, but to the Lord who enables us to overcome! Remember, circumstances are always changing, but *God’s Word is always consistent!* The Holy Spirit guides us, guards us, and convicts us when we violate God’s Word so we can repent!

Freedom! How would you personally describe it? Since John tells us we shall know the truth and it will set us free, have you examined what that truth is as recorded in the Bible? Consider some of the following, and then make your own list of what freedom really means to you!

Freedom to resist sin effectively! We all have temptations, but we decide whether to give in or resist! The Holy Spirit has given us the power to resist. *The choice is yours!* Freedom to forgive those who have hurt us in some way! Without the Lord’s help, we want revenge! To obey Him is to forgive those who do not deserve it because we did not deserve it ourselves, yet Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. He has freed us to forgive others!

He frees us to use His Gifts in a way that glorifies Him without feeling the need to *share the credit* with Him! Do all for His Glory, not ours! Our list of the ways He has set us free could fill a book! Why not start one?

1 Cor.15:57-58 NIV “But thanks be to God! *He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Therefore, dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

May you walk in His freedom with joy!

In His Service.
Mary Mayko

www.momentswithmary.org email: mmako1968@msn.com



“LET FREEDOM RING!”

By Mary Mayko

1 Peter 2:15-17 KJV “For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men; As free, not using your liberty as a cloak of maliciousness, but as servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

We all love freedom! Although the word freedom means *unrestricted action*, it does not give us license to sin! Freedom gives us a choice to do what is right in the eyes of God, not man! God has placed within each of us that choice of how we will think and what we will do. As individuals, we must take responsibility for both! What kind of freedoms are you looking for?

We can walk free from the “cares” of this world as we commit them into the hands of the Lord. That does not mean we are not concerned about people and issues, as we do care about them! The matter of cares or worries that keeps our minds in turmoil is what is referred to here! 1 Peter 5:7 KJV “Casting all your care (anxiety) upon Him, for He cares for you.” After all, He is the One who sees all things and has the power to move in our behalf! When we “cast our cares” on Him, it means we trust Him with these concerns! Anxieties eat up our energies and diminish our immune systems! No wonder the Lord said to cast our cares on Him! What freedom we have in our Lord!

We can be free even when temptations come our way! We can choose to walk away rather than to fall into Satan’s traps! God makes a way of escape when we exercise our freedom of choice not to get involved with any area of sin! [2 Peter 2:9a] “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations.” This world offers many attractive people and things to draw God’s children astray! But there is a greater freedom in resisting than in yielding! The joy of obeying God lifts our heart and a good feeling of peace allows us to lay our heads on our beds at night and rest with a clear conscience. Again, this is a spiritual and healthy blessing, as guilt feelings causes stress that affects our well being! We are made free in Christ to bring our guilt, real or imagined, before the Throne of Mercy, knowing His Blood is sufficient to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!

1 John 1:9 KJV “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We are free *not to keep up with the Jones!*” God made us as His own special people, each one different to discover and follow the plan He has for our lives. Psalms 139:14 LB “Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it! V.16 “You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book.” [V.17] “How precious it is, LORD, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can’t even count how many times a day your thoughts turn towards me.” Since God has a special plan for us, we are free to seek His face and find the way he has delight in and has especially prepared for us! Psalm 37:23 LB “the steps of good men are directed by the LORD. He delights in each step they take.”

We are free to give to others as He has given to us. Matt 10:8b “Freely you have received, freely give” What have we freely received from the Lord? Although salvation was so very costly, it is offered to us freely. We can accept or reject. Our desire should be to share freely with others what the Lord has given to us! Do you long for others to have that kind of freedom for themselves?

July Fourth is a Day of Celebrations in America. I wonder how many realize that our freedom, for which many fought and died, is in grave danger these days! The sins and perversions in our Land are threatening these very freedoms that most of hold so dear. It is time for us to exercise our freedom to pray and intercede for America and our Leaders. It is time to pray for Revival to overflow in our hearts and out to those around us.

John 8:32KJV “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Use your freedoms wisely!

Mary Mayko

Published in Faith Messenger July 1984

www.momentswithmary.org

email: mmako1968@msn.com



“YOUR FOCUS IS *WHERE*?”
Rev. J K Golding

.... “Rise let us be going”.... Matthew 26:46

Nothing ruins a picture like an “out of focus camera”! That which *should* have captured an event for years to come is gone!! It cannot be recaptured, the moment is gone; it cannot be brought back. All is lost when things get out of focus.

The media, be it TV, radio, or the newspaper, has a mile long list of negatives they gladly present to the world on a daily basis. We that know Christ, and study His Word, can *still* be influenced by this media and get “out of focus”.

To live in victory, one must focus on Jesus and understand we are truly living in the “last days”. The “Rapture could occur at any moment! But there is one sad event that must happen, either right before or right after the Rapture. America must cease to be a world power. We are watching that happen and it is very painful to us who remember her glory days! She was not a part of the “Old Roman Empire, and the Anti-Christ’s kingdom *is* the revived Roman Empire.

Again I say to you—this sad fact must be faced: the Anti-Christ’s kingdom is the Old Roman Empire revived. America was not in the Old Roman Empire, so she will loose her power as the world supremacy. That is what we are witnessing today. Her crumbling will quickly escalate, as we get further and further away from our relationship with Israel. Our allegiance with Israel is a protection for us. See Genesis 12:1-3

BUT! I bring you COMFORT – for all that is happening in our world, is recorded in His Word. **SO!** I ask you, “What are you focused on?”

Is it the economy? Your job is “Shaky, or worse, it’s gone! Read Revelation 13:11-18 Note verses 16 and 17. “He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might *buy or sell*, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast or the number of his name.”

All that is going on in the world economy is setting the stage for the beast holding all the power for the buying and selling of everything. Everyone must take the mark of the beast, thereby giving him allegiance.

Are you heartsick over a rebellious child? One whose every choice is leading to the path of destruction, and all you do is ask yourself: "Where did I go wrong?"

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-3. Note verse 2. In these days, will be children "disobedient to their parents."

Does it trouble you to see the abuse of young children, abortion, same sex marriages all being promoted? All this even in churches! Paul tells us this apostasy is a part of the last days. Indeed, we are to be aware of these perilous [dangerous] times.

John paints a picture of the church in this age. Read Revelation 3:14-18. Note verse 17. Are you in a battle with pain? Maybe you know what causes it, or maybe the Doctors shake their heads, one after another, saying it is some "rare" disorder. But the pain is real, night and day, and you know He can, will, and desires to heal you, but the healing is not there! If there is no answer for this illness, will I become a burden to my family? End up in a Nursing Home, or an agonizing death? Your heart is gripped with FEAR!

FEAR is the bottom line problem in every one of these pictures. Fear of the money gone, where will we live? How will we eat? I FEAR for my unsaved child. Will he/she spend eternity in Hell, rather than surrender to Christ? When America falls, what will life here be like?

We cannot live in our known world as it crumbles and not be affected. But, we are not to be fearful as those who do not know or understand what is happening. In fact, Jesus addressed this very thought when He said, "When these things begin to come to pass, THEN look up, and lift up your heads, [expect] for your redemption draweth nigh." [is coming soon]

Jesus spent a great deal of time teaching on these very days we are living in. See Matthew 24 and Luke 21:5-38.

So what are we to do/ stay focused! Jesus said: "WATCH AND PRAY." Be aware of what is happening and seek Him, and the wisdom to know how to deal with each circumstance. TRUST HIM for all your needs, be they physical, mental or emotional.

He knows our flesh is weak, so FEAR is clearly addressed in the WORD, and we must focus our FAITH in His power and *WHO HE IS, and not our fear*. Consider: "For GOD HATH NOT given us the spirit of fear; but of power [capacity] and of LOVE, and of a Sound Mind". [clear thinking] 2 Timothy 1:7 So who do we believe? Our weak flesh *or* His Everlasting Word?

Focus Psalm 53:5 “There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for [because] God hath scattered the bones of him that encamped against thee: thou hast put them to shame, [brought them into calamity] because God hath despised them.”

These are troubling days, but exciting, because everyone is asking: “What is going on?” We *know* and it’s so easy to witness for Jesus as we answer THEIR question.

Getting back to our text: “Rise, let us be going”. In Matthew 26:36-46; Jesus is nearing His death on the cross. He understands the physical torture and pain He is about to experience. He knows this is why He came to earth, but seeks the Father concerning “this cup”. Read verse 39. “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

He asked Peter, James and John, the sons of Zebedee to pray with Him, they fell asleep twice, the third time He asked them, and again they went to sleep. He said never mind, the time has come. [v.45] Then He uttered the words of our text. The time is here; “Rise, let us be going.”

His words to us are the same- most of the church is asleep, but the end is near. “Rise, we that are awake! Go forth in Him and rescue as many as we can from the tribulation and the fires of Hell. But to do so; WE MUST STAY FOCUSED ON HIM.

I CLOSE WITH ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED VERSES ON fear. We all know it, - *trust it!*

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will FEAR NO EVIL: FOR THOU ART WITH ME!!” Psalm 23:4

Keep watching and praying as you walk with Him!

Rev. J. Kehl Golding