



“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 we 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 keep 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 care 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 freedoms, 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!

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“PRETTY IS AS PRETTY DOES!”

By Mary Mayko

When I was a young girl, I was often impressed with the outward beauty of other people, and especially my own sisters, whom I thought were quite beautiful! I felt I was extremely “plain” looking and making comparisons with them caused me concern from time to time. I would go to my Mom and ask her if I was pretty. Her reply was always the same! “Pretty is as pretty does, and pretty apt to stay that way!”

Being quite young, I did not grasp the fullness of this and would ask her to explain. She would tell me, if my thoughts were pretty, I would never have to worry about my physical beauty. Because what was on the inside would show through to others, for after all, beauty is only “skin deep”.

Proverbs 23:7a KJV “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

Phil.4:8 KJV “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

My Mother’s ending remark was always the same, “Beauty that is only skin deep is not true beauty!” This would satisfy me for awhile and off I would go to play or daydream.

As I got older, this saying took on a real meaning for me as I began to evaluate people by their actions and attitudes, not how they looked or how much material gain they had. I have often been “turned off” by the so-called “beautiful people!” Some of them are quite rude, haughty, selfish or just plain lazy!

TV commercials focus on youth, super slimness, beautiful hair, clear skin, tan bodies, toned muscles and “sexy” everything! We know these ads do not portray real life situations for the most part! They are written to sell a product by causing us to criticize, examine, and to be dissatisfied with ourselves unless we purchase their product! These false promises attack who we are, what we do, and what we look like!

Commercials emphasize self-centeredness and a façade of outward beauty and perfection which adds more stress to many people’s daily lives! Some actually believe these ads are considered a normal standard or what society accepts and when they cannot measure up they are miserable! Since God made each of us special and unique, why would we want to compare ourselves with someone else? That does not mean we should neglect our appearance or eat carelessly. As a matter of fact all we do should be to the glory of God!

Col.3:17 KJV “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

The Bible tells us it is foolish to compare ourselves with others! Do not allow negative influences to ruin your life! Look to Jesus as the pattern and example for a satisfied life!

How wonderful that God created us to have the freedom to become all that He designed us to be! It is an exciting thing to explore life and discover new things we can learn and do! We also have the freedom to fail at times without condemnation! Some of our best

lessons in life are learned through our struggles! We have the freedom to rise and try again! Praise the Lord!

I have heard it said that success follows after we take the courage to seek what we can or cannot do. We may fail many times in life before we find the fulfillment we learn to enjoy as we continue to yield ourselves to His bidding!

2 Cor.10:12 LB “Oh, don’t worry. I would dare say that I am as wonderful as these men who tell you how good they are. Their trouble is, they are only comparing themselves with each other and measuring themselves against their own little ideas. What stupidity!”

1 Cor.11:1 LB “And you should follow my example, just as I follow Christ’s (example). How much happier we would be if we would become what God intended for us, satisfied to be ourselves and a goal of pleasing Him in all our ways.”

When we accept who we are, knowing our limitations as well as our assets and strengths, we will not be drawn aside to try to be just like someone else. We are free to allow God to work in us and on us, and completing us to accomplish His Will for our lives. (Ps.139:14-18)

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