

## Study #4: Spiritual Freedom

In this study we will examine God's amazing plan for to rescue us from our sins and the power of sin in order to serve God.

**Review:** How are you feeling about your walk with God? Are you building good relationships in the Body of Christ?

**1. Our Fallen Condition:** Our Spiritual Condition as humans (outside of a life in Christ) is characterized by slavery to sin and spiritual death. Sin destroys our relationship with God and people.

A- John 8: 34-36. Our sin enslaves us. Jesus came to set us free.

B- Eph. 2: 1-3. We are spiritually dead outside of Christ. Gratifying flesh describes a life outside of Christ.

C- Rom. 6: 20-21. All of us are slaves to sin outside of a life in Christ. Christ wants to set us free from sin.

D- Titus 3: 3. "foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved" describe life outside of Christ.

E- Sin Enslaves us. Gal. 5: 19-21. , 2 Tim. 3: 2-5. (*Mark 7: 20-23, 1 Cor. 6: 9-10, Rom. 1: 26-31*)

**Chart of Galatians 5:19-21**

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
<b>Sexual Immorality</b> πορνεία   porneia	Any sexual activity outside of a husband and wife; often associated with adultery, prostitution, and worshipping false gods by having sex with a temple priestess; includes incest and marriage outside of the people of God (TDNT VI, 579-594)	<b>Fits of Rage</b> θυμός   thymos	"A state of intense anger, with ... passionate outbursts" (LN, 88.178); "outbursts of anger" (C, 695); lashing out, losing your cool, blowing up on people, raging
<b>Impurity</b> ἀκαθαρσία   akatharsia	Sexual sin in general (TDNT III, 413-431; BDAG, 34) including masturbation, lust, lustful thoughts or fantasizing sexually, viewing pornography, petting, oral sex outside of marriage, group sex, having multiple sexual partners, homosexual activity, groping, rape, molestation, pedophilia, bestiality, etc.	<b>Selfish Ambition</b> ἐριθεία   eritheia	Being out for personal gain, self-seeking, doing things only if it benefits you, the attitude of those who demean themselves for personal gain or work hard for selfish advantage, manipulation (TDNT II, 660-661); only caring about yourself, ulterior motives
<b>Debauchery</b> ἀσέλγεια   aselgeia	Lacking moral restraint especially sexually (LN 88.272); being promiscuous, wild/out-of-control/insatiable sexuality; lack of self-restraint, going beyond what is socially acceptable (BDAG, 141; C, 227); indecency or rudeness (C, 227)	<b>Dissensions</b> διχοστασία   dichostasia	Disunity or division because of disagreement, different sides within a group (TDNT I, 514; C, 386)
<b>Idolatry</b> εἰδωλολατρία eidololatria	The service or worship of false gods (which often included a meal dedicated to the god accompanied by drunken sex) (TDNT II, 375-380); to go to anyone or anything other than the true God to have your needs met	<b>Factions</b> αἵρεσις   haireisis	Parties, sects, alternative groups, denominations (TDNT I, 180-183; C, 35)
<b>Witchcraft</b> φαρμακεία   pharmakeia	The "administering of drugs" (C, 1454); "the use of magic, often involving drugs and the casting of spells upon people ... the focus is upon the use of certain potions or drugs" (LN, 53.100); this word was sometimes used to describe poisons or medicines used to induce vomiting or bring about an abortion (LSJ, 1917)	<b>Envy</b> φθόνος   phthonos	Resentment towards others' success (Wright, 342; BDAG, 1054; LSJ, 1930); the "desire to [prevent] another's success" (C, 1462); petty refusal of something (C, 1462; LSJ, 1930); wanting someone's misfortune/downfall
<b>Hatred</b> ἐχθρά   echthra	Hatred, strong dislike for or having hostility or bitterness towards someone, friction or conflict between two or more people or groups, being opposed to someone (TDNT II, 811-815)	<b>Drunkenness</b> μέθη   methē	Drunkenness, intoxication (TDNT IV, 545-548); by extension, not being in your right mind because of any substance
<b>Discord</b> ἔρις   eris	Hating or being rude to someone who has different opinions (LN, 33.447); bitter rivalry (BDAG, 392; C, 599; LSJ, 689); arguing, trying to win an argument instead of determining truth (C, 599; LSJ, 689)		
<b>Jealousy</b> ζήλος   dzelos	Being deeply competitive (TDNT II, 877-882; C, 651); wanting to surpass or beat someone at something (C, 651)		

**Chart of 2 Timothy 3:2-5**

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
<b>Lovers of Themselves</b> φίλαυτος   philaytos	Obsessed with yourself, egotism, vanity (BDAG, 1056; C, 1463), self-absorbed (not healthy, positive thoughts about oneself)	<b>Slanderous</b> διάβολος   diabolos	Trying to make someone look bad, trying to falsely tear down someone's reputation (TDNT II, 72-81)
<b>Lovers of Money</b> φιλάργυρος   philargyros	Obsessed with wealth, wanting or being greedy for more (BDAG, 1056; C, 1463)	<b>Without Self-Control</b> ἀκρατής   akrates	Undisciplined (TDNT II, 339-342); includes procrastination, irresponsibility, etc.
<b>Boastful</b> ἀλαζών   alazon	Arrogant self-confidence that is misplaced or inaccurate, acting or thinking that you are way greater or skillful than you really are (TDNT I, 226-227); cockiness	<b>Brutal</b> ἀνήμερος   anemeros	Untamed, savage, brutal (BDAG, 79); wild, rough, abusive
<b>Proud</b> ὑπερήφανος   hyperephanos	Arrogance, a "better than others" mentality; opposite of being humble/lowly and modest (TDNT VIII, 525-529)	<b>Not Lovers of the Good</b> ἀφιλάγαθος   aphilagathos	Lacking care or concern for the public good or the good of others (TDNT I, 18; BDAG, 157); self-centered
<b>Abusive</b> βλάσφημος   blasphemos	Mocking, disrespectful (especially towards God or spiritual things) (TDNT I, 621-625)	<b>Treacherous</b> προδότης   prodotes	Traitorous, back-stabbing (BDAG, 867); disloyal, selling people out to benefit yourself
<b>Disobedient to their Parents</b> ἀπειθεῖς γονεῦσιν   apeitheis goneysin	Disobeying one's parents or guardians (TDNT VI, 10)	<b>Rash</b> προεπιτής   propetes	Thoughtless, reckless (BDAG, 873); impulsive, not thinking things through, following urges or feelings, emotional decision-making
<b>Ungrateful</b> ἀχάριστος   acharistos	Not grateful or without charm (TDNT IX, 375); having a deserving mindset	<b>Conceited</b> τυφώ   typhoo	Being so arrogant or obsessed with yourself that you have a distorted sense of reality (LN 88.218)
<b>Unholy</b> ἀνόσιος   anosios	"Not consecrated or devoted to God," godless (LN 53.47); secular, missing/excluding God; "In opposition to God ... [rebellious against] God" (BDAG, 86)	<b>Lovers of Pleasure</b> φιλήδονος   philhedonos	Pleasure-loving (TDNT II, 909-926); obsessed with comfort, luxury, sensual pleasures, etc.
<b>Without Love</b> ἀστοργος   astorgos	Uncaring towards others, especially with family (BDAG, 145-146)	<b>A Form of Godliness but Denying its Power</b> μόρφωσιν εὐσεβείας τὴν δὲ δύναμιν αὐτῆς ἡρνημένοι morphosin eysebeias ten de dynamin aytes ernemenoi	Appearing to have deep reverence for God on the outside (BDAG 412-413, 659) by being outwardly religious or claiming to follow God but not actually living a godly lifestyle
<b>Unforgiving</b> ἀσπονδος   aspondos	"Unwilling to be reconciled to others" (LN 40.7); not letting things go, holding things against people, refusing to forgive		

## 2. Repentance from Sin. 2 Cor. 7: 8-11. (Characteristics of a repentant heart)

A- earnest (sincere), eager to clear oneself (make things right with God and the people we've hurt), indignation (anger at our own sin), alarm (our spirit is awakened to how sinful we really are), longing (longing to be godly), concern (we're concerned about how much damage we've done to ourselves and others with our sin), readiness to see justice done (we welcome any consequences that come because of our sin).

## 3. Spiritual Freedom from Sin through Faith and Repentance

A- **Heb. 2: 14-16.** We can be set free from the power of sin by Jesus! (*Rom. 6: 22-23*)

B- **Titus 3: 3-7.** We experience freedom from sin through faith in Jesus' death-burial-resurrection during the washing of rebirth and renewal.

**4. The Result of the Good News! Acts 3: 17-20** God is eager to forgive the past and to move forward in your relationship! Faith, Repentance and baptism bring times of refreshing and spiritual freedom in the Lord. (*Eph. 4: 22-24, Rom. 6: 17-20*)

**Application:** How can you experience the spiritual freedom Jesus came to bring?

**Prayer:** Father, I'm enslaved to sin apart from a life in you. Help me repent of my sin, putting it to death by the power of the Cross, and help me live in power and victory by the resurrection-power of the Holy Spirit.