

## HOW IMPORTANT IS FREEDOM?

Opening Questions:

- Are their different forms or types or qualities of freedom?
- Can a person be free in a prison cell?
- Can we have a “successful American life” and not be free?
- Are there some choices that take away our freedom even while we are free to go and do anything we like?
- What is the purest and most valuable form of freedom?

What is freedom? Here is the ordinary dictionary definition of freedom. “The condition or right of being able or allowed to do whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited.”<sup>54</sup>

This is a good and proper definition of "freedom" as it is commonly understood, however, is it flawed? Yes, it certainly is. The flaw exists in the phrase, "whatever you want to." If we human beings were beings of love, truth, and rightness, then freedom would result from our being able to do "whatever we want to" because we would want to love others and deal with them in truth and rightness. However, one only needs to look around the world a bit to see that we are not beings which consistently nor regularly behave based on love, truth, and rightness.

In fact, we only need to look in the mirror and objectively examine our daily words, motivations, and deeds to come to the same conclusion that we do not act in perfect love, truth, and rightness all the time, even as disciples. However, as disciples of the Light, we have the power to live by love, truth, and rightness in a very high percentage of our daily lives. This example is what the Master called for when he said, "Therefore, be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

As we have seen - and made what I hope is a compelling case for - the fact is that we are bound in a cage of self-pride and fear and selfishness. This state will NEVER produce true freedom or stated another way we will never be free while in our cage.

There are two aspects to true freedom that ought to be understood.

*First, an individual is not free who treats other people wrong.*

They may believe they are free as they act wrongly towards others – hurt, use, take from, abuse, neglect, disrespect them with either wrongful words or

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<sup>54</sup> Cambridge Dictionary, [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org), April 2018

behavior – but they, in fact, are in a cage of their own making – if they have not killed their conscience, their conscience will condemn their wrongful words or behavior and that is not real freedom. If they have destroyed their conscience, then they have little hope of escaping the cage.

It is a fact that a person can act shamefully and wrongly towards other people hundreds of times each day and NEVER break the laws of the nation in which they live. A person can complain against others and curse others and treat other's harshly and without patience or compassion...and never break the law. Furthermore, the law can easily provide a way to justify ourselves wrongly. I will say again, law/rules can restrain behavior; they cannot motivate love and the fruit of love.

There is an outer element to freedom and an inner element to freedom. Like most things, people look primarily to the outward and physical to understand their life in this world. So "freedom" for most people means not being in a prison cell or a wheelchair or some other such movement or location or function restriction or constraint.

However, it is a fact that a wealthy person living in a multi-million dollar mansion with several “beautiful” women and driving around an expensive sports car can be in more of a cage (less free) than the man living in a prison cell. These illustrations reveal the second fact.

*The most valuable and meaningful freedom is internal, not external.* This fact is yet another proof of the spiritual or metaphysical nature of human beings and thus evidence against the physicalist view.

Real freedom exists in inner peace and contentment. Real freedom is gained through living out true love, which gives instead of takes. Those people who are the freest are those who don't hold onto their lives in this world any longer, but instead live to love/help other people, and to give their lives away to bring the freedom and love they have found in their Father to others.

Can you, dear reader, accept these simple truths about “freedom”?

- Freedom is gained through truth, not falsehood.
- Freedom is gained through rightness, not wrongness.
- Freedom is gained through humility, not self-pride.
- Freedom is gained through faith, not fear.
- Freedom is gained through love (selflessness), not selfishness.
- Freedom is found in giving our lives away to help others, not in taking from others to “better” our lives in this world.

This high form of freedom is gained through faith in the right thing/noun. The best, highest freedom is found through faith in the correct person and identifying that correct person is accomplished by reason/truth.

Therefore, we should expose that which gets in the way of a person finding freedom and love so people can see their choices—these basic life choices:

- Liberty or bondage (remain in the cage).

- Faith or fear.
- Compassion or hard-heartedness.
- Humility or self-pride.
- Love or selfishness.
- Truth or falsehood.
- Reason or emotions.
- Rightness or wrongness.
- Reality or delusion.

*Those are the most basic and essential and meaningful choices we make as human beings.*

If we make right choices, then we enter into the Life we were created to live. If we make wrong decisions, then we will stay out of the Life our Creator wants for us and remain in our half-life in our self-made cage.

The Freedom Giver put it this way:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
 Because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.  
 He has sent me to proclaim *release to the captives*,  
 And recovery of sight to the blind,  
*To set free* those who are oppressed,  
 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. (Luke 4)

And:

So Joshua was saying to those people who had believed Him, *“If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* They answered Him, *“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’”* Jesus answered them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who does/practices what is wrong is the slave of wrongness. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”* (John 8)

The Son is the best and surest way to set us free, for he is The Freedom Giver and Messenger from the Creator/Father and thus he can free us from our wrongness. If our cage of self-pride and fear and selfishness is the wrongness that we need to be set free from, then the Son is the best and surest way that we can be free from the cage in which we placed ourselves.

For the religious folks, please try and see that “the Bible” or “going to church” or *“being a good person by not doing wrong”* or many of the other things you believe you find freedom in are wrong! Only faith in the Son – the person of Joshua of Nazareth and only *his* truths and teachings as spoken by *him* and located in the four gospel books – can set you truly free if the deepest, ultimate sense. And we are only truly a “good person” if we care about what is true and right and try and help others see they need Joshua as their Leader.

For the religious person to think that your religious teachings somehow make you free is to be badly self-deceived. Believing false things does not enable us to be free. We looked at Christianity's teachings in the prior section. If you are willing to make Joshua your Standard of truth and you are eager to strive for objectivity, then you ought to conclude that Christianity is a successful failure.

For the non-theist, to think that your rejection of God makes you free is to be badly self-deceived. Believing false things does not enable us to be free. As we have seen, assuming that no designer is needed to reasonably account for human beings is a mistaken view. And to deny a metaphysical reality is also irrational.

Please understand, we, dear reader, choose and shape our destiny. *There is no deity planning our lives or directing our lives or controlling our lives or the lives of others*—God did *not* make our cage nor put us in it. That is part of the delusion revealed in this book. We are entirely in control of what we do with our lives and whether or not we will enter into the Life freely offered, or stay in our self-made cage and thus out of the Life. Typically when we reject the freedom offered we look to justify our Life-less-ness through all kinds of clever justifications, excuses, and delusion, religion being a primary one.

So, once a person comes to the understanding that freedom can only be found through faith in the Freedom Giver and thus knowing how to live rightly; having the power to live rightly; and then living rightly - where does that leave a person? It leaves a person needing a Leader!

To find what is true and right you must decide to allow reason, logic, and observation (where possible) to inform you in all domains in your life. Learn to use reason and logic well, the tools that allow us to identify and put forth true things. Care genuinely about what is true, and if you do that with all your heart and determination, then you will do well, and you will find the truth.

Do not believe the false claim that "science" is The Truth that will set you free or that makes sense of everything. Science rightly done is merely a tool and method, all the philosophical claims by its adherents notwithstanding. Science is the best tool to understand the physical world in which we live. Truth from Joshua is the best source to understand our nature, the metaphysical aspects of human life, our purpose as human beings and why and how we should live our lives.

Finally, caring about what is right is critical. Truth is higher than "rightness" and encompasses thoughts and beliefs, whereas "rightness" has to do with human behavior and *how* we are to live our lives, not *why* we are to live our lives. There is a right way and a wrong way for us to live and behave. Or, stated another way, people can behave wrongly, or they can behave rightly. To deny this is irrational. When we live rightly, mainly when we act with love towards others, the conscience we have will reward us with internal peace.

The world makes a big deal about leadership, and they are right to do so. In the next chapter, we will take a look at the vital concept of leadership and see how one particular leader is badly needed.

Chapter Summary:

- Freedom is a critical concept to self-aware, sentient, free will beings. When we perceive that we do not have freedom, our spirit usually is downcast, depressed or discouraged;
- The highest form of liberty is not external or physical or circumstantial, but rather internal. The enjoyment of external freedom will change depending upon circumstances. Inner freedom will result in peace that no one can take away;
- The choices we make affect our freedom and our lives. For example, choosing to serve money instead of people puts people into bondage and takes away their liberty;
- Human beings need the Freedom Giver sent by the Creator to set them free, and they need the Freedom Giver to keep them free.