

Breaking Free From Religious Bondage



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Breaking free from religious bondage is a most wonderful experience. However it can be very frightening at first when you discover that almost everything you have been taught is not true or just part truth.

What will keep us in bondage are our beliefs that we have been taught. Those who are in deep bondage are those who have been in religion for many years. A good example of bondage is the belief that the bible is the word of God. Before you get to upset over this statement consider this. We have Christian scriptures, Muslim scriptures, Mormon scriptures, Hindu scriptures. Buddhist scriptures and the lists go on and on. In those cultures everyone is taught that their scriptures are true. Christians teach that their scriptures are true and all others are false. Then we have all the different denominations and most teach that they have the truth and some of the others are false.

It is a natural thing to believe what we have been taught even if what we are taught is false. The most dangerous belief is that the scriptures are the infallible word of God. To believe this locks you in a mindset that will keep you in a prison that takes a miracle to break.

The folks that believe that the scriptures are infallible will fight for certain things they believe and disregard other things that are in scripture. For instance the Apostle Paul taught for men to have long hair was a shame. 1Cor 11:14 ***Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?*** Today it is very common for men to have long hair and churches say nothing about it. If the scriptures are infallible why do we not enforce it all instead of forcing other beliefs that we have?

He also taught that women should keep silence in the church. 1 Cor14:34-35 ***Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*** Many churches today have women preachers and most of them will say the scriptures are the word of God yet if that is true they should not be preaching.

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I absolutely love the scriptures, but they must be read with an open heart and mind to be taught by the spirit. Many time as I read the scriptures I am told by spirit that what I read does not line up with who I know God to be. To really understand scriptures we need to first of all know the unconditional love of the Father towards his creation.

The Apostle Paul wrote the biggest part of the New Testament and I am sure he had no idea the value that men would put on his words. He was not quoting what God told him. He was writing letters to the churches expressing his beliefs concerning living a godly life. Were his writings anointed? Absolutely! Were they infallible? Absolutely not. Some of the Christian writers of today are just as anointed as the Apostle Paul, but none of them would claim their writings are infallible.

Most of the divisions in the church today are men and women who claim their interpretation of scriptures are right and others are wrong. One of the things that breaks my heart today is how Christians treat gay folks. A lot of the people who come against gay people do all sorts of things that are against scripture and then condemn gays as if the gay person is worse than what they are doing. If we really understood the heart of God we would never say anything that would make someone think God thinks less of them because they are missing the mark. We all come short of the glory of God and we should be ministering grace and love to folks not pointing out what we think is wrong with them. I have been in ministry many years and I have met and know many gay people and the ones I know have a deep love for God and people. More so than a lot of Christians I know.

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We say we love God but hate the sin. If you love someone you do not cut them off from fellowship. You invite them as well as anyone else to your home for fellowship. You may not like what they do but if you truly love them with unconditional love you treat them as you would anyone else. That is how God treats you and that is the way we should treat others. Jesus said that loving God and loving one another was the fulfilling of all the law. If you love someone you will do nothing to condemn them. We need to think about that.

We have been in so much religious bondage that even after 2000 years we still do not really believe we are Christ on the earth. We know intellectually that we are sons of God and that our sins are forgiven, but because of religion we still do not believe we can live as Jesus lived on the earth.

One of the reasons for this is our belief that we are less than what Jesus is or was. After all, he was born without sin and was sinless so he had a great advantage over us. This is true about him but it is also true about us. The difference between Jesus and us is he knew at an early age his true identity. We came from a higher dimension we call heaven and was born in a carnal worldly system and was raised to believe we were born sinners. Because of the influence of this world we became what we believed and were told. We were told we were sinners separated from God and the only way we could be accepted by God was to change and become godly.

The real truth is we are born sons of God and we are here to experience this physical realm and show forth the loveliness of our Father. We are told that we cannot fellowship with God because sin separates us. God sent his son to be crucified so we could have fellowship with him. This is just not true. God was never angry with us. He sent his son to reveal his love for us and to reveal our true identity as his sons. We have never been separated from God except in our darkened mind and understanding.

Eph4:17-18 *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

All of us have been alienated from the life of God within us because of being taught ignorance. Religion was invented to keep the people in the world divided.

As long as we are divided the powers that be can control us. If God's people ever wake up to the truth of His unconditional love and acceptance we will rule the world in righteousness. You are not a sinner. You may be doing a lot of wrong things but that is not who you are. When we awake to our true nature and identity we begin to live the life we have always wanted as a Christian.

We know that we are the temple and the expression of God on the earth. Why is it that we have such a hard time experiencing the abundant life that Jesus came to reveal to us? The main reason is confusion. We are taught so many conflicting things in religion. We are told God is our Father and he loves us unconditionally but there are conditions on his love. How can that be?

We are told that even though his love is unconditional if we are disobedient he will let us suffer eternally in a never ending punishment. If that is true then God would be worse than a monster if he created a place where the majority of creation would suffer unending agony eternally. Where is the unconditional love in that?

As a parent would you take a match and hold it to your child's finger for even a minute? If not then you are more merciful than what we are told God is. The doctrine of eternal punishment was invented by religion to keep people in bondage to the church and in fear. The Christian Church systems of today teach Condemnation, fear and judgment instead of a gospel of love and reconciliation. Even the Old Testament teaches God will not forsake us forever.

According to Fundamental Christianity the following people are going to hell to spend eternity in a burning fire! All Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and Confucianists: American Indians, Eskimos, ALL the tribes of Africa, Australia, South America and the Pacific Islands: All Atheists! All children who reached the "age of accountability without praying the "sinner's prayer! All Gays, Lesbians, Transgendered people and Transvestites: alcoholics, drug addicts and Millions of Good, Moral, kind people who never Accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior will spend eternity in hell.

Anyone who understands the love of the Father can see how ridiculous this teaching is. Yet God's people sit in churches that believe this and hear their preacher talk about the love of God.

Another thing that keeps us in bondage to religion is the teaching of the law. The Apostle Paul said this very clearly. 2Cor 3:14-15 ***But their minds were blinded: for until this day There remains the same Veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which Veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the Veil is upon their heart.***

Whenever you try to live by the law you have a veil over your eyes and cannot meet the demands of the law. The reason for that is when you try to live by the outward law you do not know who you are. You are lost in a mistaken Identity. Therefore you should not condemn yourself as you will never walk as Christ on the earth in a religious carnal mentality. Once our eyes are opened to the truth of our being, that we are a manifestation of God on this earth we will begin to fulfill the law. This is the inner life law of the spirit within us.

Rom 8:2 ***For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*** The law of sin and death is the ministration of the law. 2 Cor 3:7-8 ***But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: 8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?***

Trying to keep the law in an outward way brings death. The law will always bring condemnation and death. That is what it's supposed to do. It makes you realize there is no way in your own strength you can do this. However the law of the spirit of life within us will enable us to walk in all the righteous requirements of the law.

We can only walk in righteousness as we are unveiled to the resurrected spirit of Christ within us. Just as you do not try to be a human you will no longer try to live a good godly life. Out of our innermost being will flow the life of the spirit.

Whenever you try to live for God by your performance, you place yourself under the law and it puts a veil over your eyes. It is then impossible for you to express the reality of what is in you because you are veiled to the truth of your being.

Gal 5:4-5 ***Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.***

Until we can break free from the religious thinking that we must improve ourselves we will never be free. Religion is part of Mystery Babylon that is in Revelation. Mystery Babylon is really not only religion, but it's the complete social, economic, political and religious system that all of us are in the midst of.

How do we get away from a religious mindset thinking we must improve ourselves? 2Cor 3:15-16 ***But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.***

Whenever we turn our heart to the Lord the veil is taken away because we then are not trying to perform for the Lord but seeking his help in the time of our need. We can learn by practice and application to turn deep within our being and touch the God of the universe. That is the only way that any of us will ever be set free to manifest our Father on this earth.

The simple truth is that everything we need is within our spirit. Jesus said John 4:23-24 ***The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.***

I know we believe that, but then when we get in despair and despondency over our condition most have not learned to turn deep within and touch the living, vibrating, and energizing spirit of God within us. The Lord taught me many years ago how to practically experience His life and it is simply by turning to Him. Do not look at the condition; look away unto Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith.

We are much more than we know. We are not just a physical being but we are a divine spiritual being, a being of light. A lot of folks have the concept that we have to die, or we have to do something to attain this magnificent light body, or transcendent body, a body of resurrection.

Jesus displayed his light body before He ever went into death. one day as I was reading about the account of Jesus on the mount of transfiguration, it says that He shined as the sun in Heaven, and when I was reading Peter's account about that, he was telling how they were on the mountain; and Peter said we saw Him shine as the sun.

Peter said something really mysterious: he said, "But we have a more sure word of prophecy, where you do well to take heed until the day star arises in you." So basically what he is telling you there is, that same magnificent spiritual essence that Jesus was is in you; and if you will take heed to the word, not necessarily the Bible, but take heed to the word that you hear God speak to you, you will be a light to the world.

God will speak to you through your spirit. If you will learn to turn to the spirit within you in the quiet and listen, you will begin to hear the voice of God. When that happens, that is the only thing that will break you out of religious bondage. When we begin to hear God speak within us, one of the first things that will happen to us is that our bondage's, our bigotry, all of the negative things will begin to fall at our feet.

There is such an overwhelming essence of His presence that begins to emanate from you. At first it is only in the quiet that you begin to experience the Lord's tangible presence. The more you get acquainted with His presence; you then can begin to walk in that. And the more you are able to walk in the presence of God; even without saying a word you will begin to affect the lives of people around you. Most of us haven't known we could preach without saying a word. Jesus said **"Ye are the light of the world."** The light emanating from you will enlighten the darkness in another. They will sense in you something that they desire within themselves.

Another thing that will help break our religious bondage is for us to realize that God's intent and purpose for us might not necessarily be to pray all the time, read the Bible all the time, study all the time, or be a monk. There are people that are called to do that. But His purpose for you is the same as for everyone on the earth, and that is simply to fill your consciousness with his life that is in you. From the outflow of his life you will do his will.

God wants to incarnate fully in your being. I see it happening in these days all over the world. People today aren't just learning things; they are hearing and they are being changed. There is change taking place in the lives of people all over the world and it is not only happening in Christianity, it's happening in all the religions of the world. There are people who are beginning to have an ear to hear.

God has risen up men and women who won't go into a foreign country and tell them their god is false, or that their scriptures are false. We just tell them that God is the Father of all. He is our father and their father. We tell them that God's purpose for all is to awaken us to the fact that we are his sons and daughters. God wants to become all that you are in your being.

Many people today are waiting for the rapture because they think that they are going to be raptured into Heaven. While so many are waiting to be raptured, God wants to come to earth. God definitely will rapture you, but He will rapture you through the ascension of your consciousness so that you begin to operate out of the mind of Christ. As long as that seal remains over your mind, you cannot be anything but carnal. You can be a good person. You can be a religious person. You can do the best you know how to do. I did it for many, many years, the best I knew how to do but it takes a revelation of being a son to bring change.

When the seal over our mind begins to break we begin to have a revelation, not just knowledge but a revelation of Christ in us, we begin to be transformed.

I like what Stacy Wood used to say. "Revelation without transformation is just information." When God speaks to you, that is the revelation, and that is what brings transformation. It is not what we learn. A lot of times we learn something out of a book or out of the Bible and we say, "I just had a revelation." That is not necessarily true. You just learned some new information. But if God speaks to you, in His speaking is the revelation that brings the transformation. If we learn to hear His voice, that is our transformation.

When we begin to function in the Christ mind and how He sees the world, and how He looks at His children, we begin to think totally different. There was a time when I wouldn't touch anything that didn't look like it was "Christian", because I was afraid. I was told not to touch this or read that. But one of the first things that happens is when the mind of Christ begins to form in you; you realize there is nothing to fear in reading or listening to anything.

There is only life to be gained by you seeking for the truth. There is nothing to fear. The Lord spoke to me many years ago when I began to be open to things outside of traditional Christianity. The first time that happened is when I learned about the Pentecostal movement. If you, when you are seeking, whatever you are reading, whatever you are studying, if you seek for truth, you will find truth if it is

there. But if you look for error, you will find error." There is truth and untruth in all religions.

Religion is not the only bondage we are in. A lot are in bondage to living a life someone else dictates to them. A lot of children are in bondage to living a life their parents want for them. Some are in bondage to doing things or not doing things that someone else thinks they should or shouldn't do. It is a wonderful thing to break the bondage's and begin to live your life as your heart dictates and not someone else.

If you can learn to enjoy life, knowing that as you are enjoying your life God is satisfied. If you are going to a movie or you are going to the golf course doing things that are fun and you feel that, "Well if I was really godly, I'd probably be preaching or going to a Bible school or something"; we have to drop the religious thinking, because each one of us is unique. God is in humanity to experience all of life.

In our expression, in our activities, every person is unique. How could we have such a variety that we have on this earth if God didn't want it? There is a beauty and magnificence in all of us if we will just learn to enjoy life, and not be concerned about our growth, not be too concerned about our spirituality, but learn to enjoy life knowing God is working in you and will complete the work he started.

If you are enjoying life, you are enjoying God. Some say that when they go to a movie or do something fun their conscience will condemn them. I caution people on this too. You cannot always go by your conscience. Your conscience can be programmed by the knowledge of good and evil. In fact, your conscience has been programmed by religion. If you sit in a religious assembly and you are taught that certain things are wrong, then when you go to do those things, what happens? Your conscience will condemn you. You can go to Germany and feel perfectly free as a Christian, to drink beer, but if you try to do something like that in a Pentecostal church your conscience will condemn you. There is something greater than our conscience and that is our spirit. Spirit speaks through intuition most of the time. It is what is called "the still small voice."

Spending time in the quiet and meditation will break the shackles of religious bondage. When we experience true freedom is when we really begin to experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give us.

Within your being is the Holy of Holies, (your spirit.) You can begin to speak from that place in your being and change your life. Wayne Dyer says it this way: "Change your thoughts and it will change your life." I like to say it like this: Deep within you, you know the truth. As we learn to sit in the quiet through contemplative meditation, or even just through the quietness, truth will be revealed to us.

If you will begin to think about and begin to speak what you know to be the truth, then the changing of your thoughts combined with what you know to be the truth in your heart, and then speaking according to that, will change your life.

It works every time. But as long as you contemplate and think about what is wrong with you, and how you've always missed it, and you will probably always miss it, it will keep you in the shackles of bondage. I used to say all the time, "I will never be able to be a good Christian." I used to say, "Jesus, when you come back I'm going to have a cigarette in my hand, and I know it!" I didn't realize at that time He never left.

Ever since 1969 when I first met the Lord, I don't think there has been a day that I haven't spent a minimum of an hour in His presence. I spent three years from 8 to 12 hours a day in His presence. I've been a witness as to what He can do as I just behold His glory, not in the Heavens but within my own being, and that is the only thing that will change our lives.

There are a lot of voices in the airwaves. Right now there are a million voices going through the air that we cannot hear. However if you turn on a radio and tune to the right frequencies you can hear them. We do not understand how this works but it does. I can't understand this either, but I can be anywhere in the world with my laptop. It doesn't even have to be plugged in; I can write a letter to my wife and push the "send" key and it will print out on her printer at home. Even without my computer being plugged in! Now, what would be possible for us when we learn to tune into the spiritual frequency that is within us?

I'm continually watching my life being changed, not by doing, but by listening and doing what I hear. Carol and I have been so blessed because we been able to hear Him. We've been married for 30 years, and we've been able to hear God all during that time. And we've been able to do some unbelievable things just by saying "OK", just being willing, and then not even trying to make it happen.

The most precious thing of all that God gives to you is His unconditional love for all of humanity. He takes away the pointing of the finger, and all of the judgment out of you, and you can absolutely love everybody, because when you get into the heart of God, you really discover that He is love. I don't ask people to drop their discernment, but you do need to drop the judgment, because your discernment is only so that you can realize what people need and then be able to minister to them, not to judge them, not to even correct them, but to accept them, to love them and to minister to them the way to break the bondages in their lives.

People all over the world today are hearing how wonderfully marvelous God is, and that all He wants to do is fully incarnate in your being. He wants you to enjoy life. It was said of Jesus in the first chapter of John, "***The law came by Moses, but grace and reality came by Jesus Christ.***" Grace, one of the root words for "grace" is enjoyment. So you can live by the law, and always be condemned and never be able to measure up, always feeling inadequate, always looking at your faults and your blemishes, or you can learn to enjoy God and His grace, knowing that you can't be bad enough to cause God to turn away from you.

There is nothing that you can do today that would stop you from going into His presence tonight and enjoying Him except your religious mind telling you, "After what you've done you cannot enjoy God. Religion tells you that you can't and I was told this myself when I was struggling with the habits and the sin in my life.

The preacher would say, "You cannot enter the presence of God with sin in your life." If that is true then nobody would make it." But see, religion categorizes sin. "Well, if you smoke, you could maybe get into His presence, but if you were an adulterer, then you probably couldn't make it."

All of us do that in our natural thinking, we categorize some sin as greater than others and that is so wrong. You have to learn to look deep within the heart of

humanity and realize that deep within them is the same wonderful, magnificent essence that is in you. That is how you can minister the grace and the freedom and the loveliness of God that He ministers to you. I think we've all now learned not to condemn ourselves, because we know that He took away sin.

We've learned not to listen to the accuser. Revelation 12:11, "***They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.***" The accuser accused them before God day and night." The accuser will accuse you day and night before God in your spirit, and keep you in bondage to that condemnation and guilt and religious thinking. Thank God all the bondages are being broken.

It is the most wonderful life that we have. And you can have it without being religious. I realize now that whatever I do, I do unto the Lord, and I do it with joy and thanksgiving. And believe me, this doesn't sound religious, but enjoying life and living life to its fullest and loving God and loving humanity is much better than being in bondage to religious teachings. Don't misunderstand me, there is nothing wrong with going to church and having wonderful fellowship with others, but we need to learn to live and enjoy life.

There is nothing God enjoys more than living through you, and enjoying this physical reality. Well, people say it is not a reality, but it is the only one you have right now. I guarantee you; God enjoys your humanity. And that is why you are here. Amen.