



Scripture nugget – The freedom of God's Children

Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you remain in My Word, you will truly be My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered Him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free (John 8:31-36).

The truth will set us free (cf. John 8:32). The highest form of freedom is spiritual freedom - freedom from the slavery to sin. Everyone is a sinner and needs to be set free of slavery to sin. We need the freedom to render adoration and love to God, our Creator and Saviour, the freedom to attain the highest potential God made us to be, the freedom to claim the eternal, glorious inheritance that God prepares for each of us, the freedom to make ourselves worthy to be God's children by the working of His grace in us. To be free in the highest sense, we need to know the eternal truths, truths that stand forever irrespective of human belief. To different people, truths are different things. However, the teachings of Christ is clear. *Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).* Jesus is the eternal, unchanging Truth. God's Word is truth (cf. John 17:17). All God's commandments are truth (cf. Psalm 119:151 KJV). Christ and all the things He stands for are truth. If we know the truth, then we can discern what is false. This is very important in a confused, chaotic world where there are many falsehoods and false ideologies that are promulgated as good and true. There are sins in God's eyes which are widely accepted by mainstream society and legalized. Without the truths of God, it is difficult to discern between true and false, and between good and evil.

The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth (cf. John 16:13). Before Jesus ascended into heaven He promised the sending of the Holy Spirit. He assured His disciples who were grieved at the prospect of His leaving them, that it was to their benefit that He ascends to heaven so that the Holy Spirit will come and strengthen them. *But when He comes, the Spirit of truth, He will guide you to all truth (John 16:13).* It is through the Holy Spirit which resides in us that we understand the truths of our faith. The Holy Spirit teaches us the ways of God and prepares us to be God's children. *All have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).* Those who are led by the Holy Spirit are children of God (cf. Romans 8:14). The Holy Spirit helps us overcome our fallen human nature and sets us free by helping us embrace and live the truths of our Christian faith, empowering us to live a life of grace.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You said when the Son of God sets us free, we will be free indeed. Spiritual freedom is from the breaking of the bondage of sin, and sanctification by the Holy Spirit. To be free, I need to abide by Your Word, Your Commandments. Those who love Your laws have abundant peace for there is no stumbling block for them (cf. Ps 119:165). Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path (Ps 119:105). Please enlighten me on the areas of my life that are not lived according to Your Commandments, and give me the humility and strength to surrender this to You. I want to be set free from all forms of slavery to sin so that I can have Your peace and joy in my heart. By Your Spirit, guide me on the true path which leads to freedom. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.