

# Priceless! You are Free!

## Freedom!

I remember the first time I lived on my own, and not under my parents' roof. I thought I would have true freedom now that I was setting the rules. I could stay up as late as I want, do (or not do) what I want, eat what I want. It was freedom! Well, so I thought. Soon, I realized that a bedtime wasn't a torture set by my parents; I needed to go to bed at a decent time, because I had to get up and go to work and college in the morning. Yes, I could eat ice cream for breakfast, but I quickly discovered that my body functioned better when I ate nutritious meals, and saved ice cream for an occasional treat. I thought I could ignore the household chores—but soon even that called for my attention. Freedom didn't mean I was free to do whatever I wanted. Bible commentator Warren Wiersbe wrote, "Freedom does not mean I am able to do whatever I want. That's the worse kind of bondage. Freedom means I have been set free to become all that God wants me to be, to achieve all that God wants me to achieve, and to enjoy all that God wants me to enjoy."

In Romans 8:1-2, Paul says this about freedom that comes through Christ: ***Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.***

Verse 1 speaks of us being free from the guilt or punishment of sin. Because of Jesus Christ's death on the cross, He took the punishment we deserved for our sin. It says there is now no condemnation. God declares those who are in Christ, "not guilty." Jesus was condemned to die so we wouldn't have to. The Passion Translation says it this way: ***So now the case is closed. There remains no accusing voice of condemnation against those who are joined in life—union with Jesus, the Anointed One.***

Verse 2 speaks of us being free from the power of sin. The penalty for our sin was paid for us in full by Jesus Christ. We are free from the curse of the law because of His death. We are delivered from the power of sin by His death and resurrection. We have been set free because we are in Christ.

We are free from the punishment of sin, and from the power of sin, so we need to live free—and not let sin enslave us any longer. William Barclay wrote, "Freedom in Christ is not the right to do as one pleases, but the power to do as he ought." Romans 6:6-7 says, ***For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.***

In The Salvation Army Songbook (2015), song #1037, says this:

*Praise God, I'm saved! Praise God, I'm saved!  
All's well, all's well, He sets me free!*

We are free in Christ, so let's live free!



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## Conversation Starters

Gather with some friends and spend some time going deep in conversation around the fact that you are free in Christ.

- What is your favorite thing about the 4th of July?
- As we celebrate our country's independence, what freedoms in America do you particularly appreciate?
- What does freedom in Christ mean to you?
- How do we obtain freedom in Christ?
- Does freedom in Christ mean I can do whatever I want?
- What sin patterns do you still need to be freed from?
- Have you ever experienced a particular struggle or challenge that led you to seek freedom in Christ?
- How can we ensure we are using our freedom in Christ in a way that pleases God?
- Can you share a specific example of how you have used your freedom in Christ to make a difference in your life or the lives of others?

***“Freedom is not free—it cost God the death of His Son. This truth motivates us to protect and value our freedom for the precious gift that it is.”*** Dann Farrelly

### Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you focus on your identity - You are free: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Bible Study: *Freedom From Fear* By Major Beth Desplancke  
Blog: *You are Free* by Colonel Genevera Vincent

Craft: *Bird Plaque* by Major Harryette Raihl

Devotion: *Free as a Bird* by Major Beth Desplancke

Check out our Playlist of songs that speak of our identity in Christ: WM 2024-2025

Priceless: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7xLxDn8lLdAq4je3D5L4YK?si=547054ac7309495c>

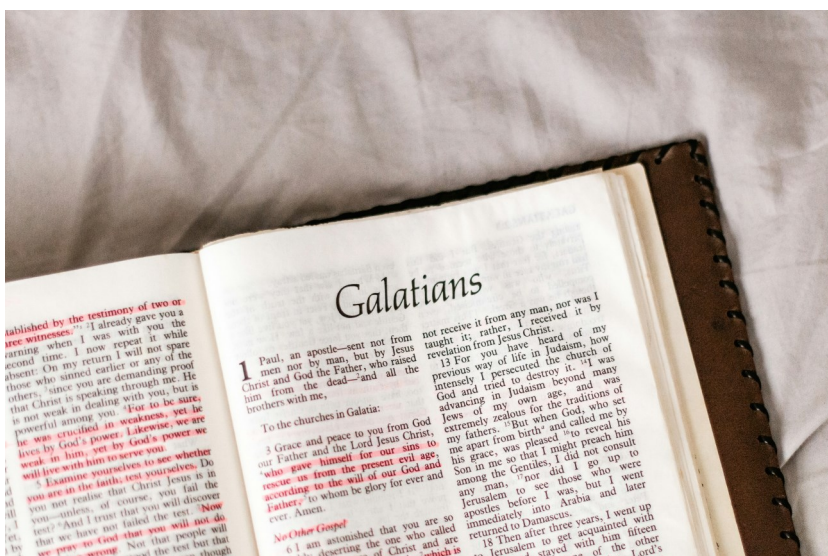
## Red, White & Blue Prayers

As we celebrate the 4th of July, and see lots of red, white and blue displayed, use the colors to prompt you to pray the following freedom prayers.

**Red** reminds us of the blood Jesus shed for us. Thank God for the sacrifice He made on the cross, enabling freedom from sin and its bondage. Thank Him for that fact that we have been freed from guilt, condemnation and the fear of death. Declare that you are free in Christ, and that He has rescued you from the dominion of darkness and brought you into His kingdom of light. Pray for freedom from the lies and deception of the enemy of our souls.

**White** symbolizes purity. Because of Christ's death, we have freedom from the power of sin. However, we still have sin in our lives. Pray and ask the Lord for help in overcoming temptations and struggles, and in walking in truth and righteousness. Pray for strength to reject sin and live according to His will. Pray for freedom from habitual sin, specific temptations, or unhealthy patterns in your life.

**Blue** represents calmness and trust. Ask for freedom from anxiety, fear, insecurity, and worry. Pray for freedom from the control of anger or other destructive emotions. Offer your life to God, surrendering every aspect to His control and guidance.



*The book of Galatians emphasizes freedom in Christ.*

## Flourishing in the Word

For the month of July, read through the book of Galatians. See how we are free in Christ.

July 1	Galatians 1:1-5	July 17	Galatians 4:1-7
July 2	Galatians 1:6-10	July 18	Galatians 4:8-11
July 3	Galatians 1:11-17	July 19	Galatians 4:12-16
July 4	Galatians 1:18-24	July 20	Galatians 4:17-20
July 5	Galatians 2:1-5	July 21	Galatians 4:21-23
July 6	Galatians 2:6-10	July 22	Galatians 4:24-27
July 7	Galatians 2:11-13	July 23	Galatians 4:28-31
July 8	Galatians 2:14-16	July 24	Galatians 5:1-6
July 9	Galatians 2:17-21	July 25	Galatians 5:7-12
July 10	Galatians 3:1-6	July 26	Galatians 5:13-15
July 11	Galatians 3:7-9	July 27	Galatians 5:16-18
July 12	Galatians 3:10-14	July 28	Galatians 5:19-21
July 13	Galatians 3:15-18	July 29	Galatians 5:22-26
July 14	Galatians 3:19-22	July 30	Galatians 6:1-10
July 15	Galatians 3:23-25	July 31	Galatians 6:11-18
July 16	Galatians 3:26-29		

## Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

The holidays aren't that far away. Here are some holiday ideas you might want to try.

**Anaheim Red Shield, CA** held a Gratitude Luncheon where the women from the corps and ARC joined together. One of the activities they did was make encouragement cards. It was such a success they are planning to do it again this year.

**Auburn, CA** did a program for Veteran's Day (November) where the women were asked to bring a picture of their veteran and share briefly about them.

**Denver Citadel, CO** painted wooden nativities.

**Grand Junction, CO** made Christmas cards for our Western Territory's missionaries and for hospitalized veterans.

**Gresham, OR** women bought, cut and prepared 1000 scarves and gifts for seniors in their community.

**Klawock, AK** divided into teams and built gingerbread houses. The corps members judged the houses to declare a winner.

**Roseburg, OR** created the centerpiece for the Corps Family Christmas Potluck as well as 125 gifts for those at a local shelter.

## Freedom in Christ Quotes

*"True liberty consists exactly in self-determination in the direction of holiness. Man is never more free than when he moves consciously in the direction of God."* Louis Berkhof

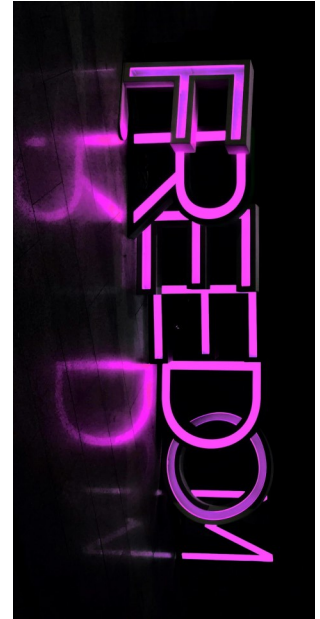
*"True liberty consists only in the power of doing what we ought to will, and in not being constrained to do what ought not to will."* Jonathan Edwards

*God's purpose in redeeming men from sin is not to give them freedom to do as they please but freedom to do as He pleases, which is to live righteously."*  
John MacArthur

*"We find freedom when we find God; we lose it when we lose God."*  
Paul E. Scherer

*"The only freedom that man ever has is when he becomes a slave to Jesus Christ."* RC Sproul

*"True and absolute freedom is only found in the presence of God."*  
AW Tozer



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***"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."***  
Galatians 5:13

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## Identity Statements

You are God's child and you are free in Him! Here are some identity statements for you to claim, memorize and meditate on.

I will walk about in freedom for I have sought out your precepts. Psalm 119:45

Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:35-36

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. Romans 6:22

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 1 Peter 2:16

