

## "In Christ" - John 8: Galatians 5 (Our Freedom in Christ)

The story of being "in Christ" is a freedom story - the freest of all freedom stories! To come to this liberating awareness is like receiving a major shot of spiritual WD-40... as its truth penetrates us, things begin to move, to work, to function in ways that, perhaps, they never had.

Jesus Christ means freedom. (It is always and only a Person Who liberates us.) He came in person to face and defeat every hindrance to human freedom. Therefore, our freedom "in Christ" is the ability to be and do - without hindrance - according to our (new) nature. We, as Christians, can have this freedom and not know it ("Do you not know...?"), we can have it and not live in it (Ga 5:1), we can have it and misuse it (Ga 5:13; I Cor 8:9; I Pet 2:16).

Or, we can possess this glorious possession and bring it into the realm of our daily experience. For that to happen, truth must lead the way (Jo 8:31-32,36). Truth that is absolute and uncreated and, therefore, unbending in its nature (Heb 13:8; Ja 1:17). Whatever does not have its origins in God, cannot be oriented to Christ, cannot be integrated into the Spirit of Truth will only diminish our liberty at best, or, make us captives at worst. (That is why there is never any true freedom in sinning - a sin is a lie about God and lies cannot set us free!)

The Truth is very simply what God says (Jo 17:17). All He has to say He perfectly says in His Son (Jo 14:6). We are to place our faith, say our amen, give our "yes" in and to and unto a Person, Jesus Christ the Lord. Our freedom cry is always, "I believe You!" Since we freely live and move and have our being only in Him, a living and loving, responsive and expressive communion with Him is essential to experience our liberty. It calls for nothing less than abiding in Him and abandoning to Him when He makes His truth known to us.

Meaning what? Meaning two things at least: humility and surrender! Freedom requires a renunciation of our ego spasms of self-determination as we bow before one will - His! (Proud people are never free!) Simply hearing and knowing "truth" does not make us free - the experience of freedom is in the obedience of faith in the active and living surrender to the Obedient One in us. Only then do we participate in our freedom. (For rebels are never free!)

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## GREETINGS

New Year. New Calendar. New plans. New unknowns! Are you ready to thank God for what He has in store? Willing to trust without conditions and limits the One "who holds the future"? Will we declare now that Christ in us will be enough for the day when we come to know what He has known all along?

The "unknowns" of this year may hold unspeakable joy or seemingly unbearable pain. I know God rarely gives "early" grace, however, I do believe in present tense grace (for future tense happenings) that arms and fortifies and prepares us for all that God has determined to be necessary to maximize our value to Him and His kingdom plans. We want to be abiding and abandoned before such events occur.

Set your mind and heart now to abide in a living and loving communion with Him, to abandon to a responsive and expressive release of His life for all that is to come. He will have gone before us making a righteous way... and we just might see it!

If you've not made plans for our retreat, note the deadlines and respond soon! Also, note the San Antonio changes on our calendar!

Hope to see each of you here, there, or somewhere in 2016!

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

3,10,17,24,31 CCF  
12 Alachua Study  
26 Ocala Study

### FEBRUARY

12-14 Florida Retreat

### MARCH

11-13 San Antonio (210-478-0618)

### APRIL

22-24 Monticello, UT (859-393-4104)

### MAY

6-8 Waymont, PA (607-239-5006)



## Florida Retreat



### "Centered in Christ"

February 12 - 14, 2016

**\$50 deposit Due January 11th, 2016**

\$290 Couple - (meals and room)

\$160 Single - 2 to room (meals and room)

\$70 conference and meals (no room)

( for further details call 386-418-0913, 352-672-1275  
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