

Free Indeed

- Venus Laney

“If the son therefore shall set you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

I couldn't help but notice the word “indeed” at the end of this scripture recently. I've read it before many times, but all of the sudden that word just jumped out at me. It seemed like an unnecessary addition. But then, the words were in red in my Bible which means they were spoken by Jesus himself. That tells me that it has significant meaning because I believe every word He spoke holds great value. So then why would he add this particular adverb to an already profound statement?

I looked up the meaning of the word “indeed” and rejoiced in what I found....

Indeed – adv. In fact, in reality, in truth...

What that says to me is that when Jesus sets us free, we are not only free in the spiritual sense, but in reality – right here and now on earth! Bondages that hold Christians have no real authority over us. It is up to us to walk in the freedom He has already obtained for us! When we accept Jesus as our Lord and savior, our prison doors are opened. Why then do so many Christians continue to live in bondage? Two reasons come to mind – we are either unaware that we are enslaved or we have not experienced the revelation that we are in fact free!

The enemy will use any tool he can to try to keep you under his control. The fact is, society has blinded our eyes to so many sins that we don't even realize what a true life of victory is most of the time. We expect and accept the problems of today as just a way of life – depression, oppression, sickness, jealousy, strife, addictions. These were never intended to control a Christian! Jesus said ***“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10.***

If you do not realize that something has a hold on your life and your mind, then you can not see the need for change. That is why it is so important to read the word of God. It opens our eyes to God's will for us. ***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12.*** Our continual prayer should be that God would reveal to us any areas of bondage in our lives.

I remember the personal victory I experienced over the bondage of fear years ago. I had no idea that living in a constant state of worry and fear was a prison! I still have my moments of worry, but it no longer controls my life the way it did. It got to the point that every time my husband or son was out of my sight, there was a gripping panic inside that I may never see them again. I was saved for years before I realized that I was being controlled by this mindset! Again – we can't accept the deliverance until we see the need to be free!

I am not trying to downplay or oversimplify the struggles that we face as Christians, but it is so important to realize the authority that God has given us over the enemy and learn to walk in it! It will take effort on our part to experience the deliverance, but the victory is ours for the taking!

Think of it in the terms of an actual prison – Jesus has already unlocked the door to your cell, but he's not going to drag you out. You have to walk out on your own. That walk will be easier for some than others. But, to continue to stay imprisoned just because the journey out the door seems too difficult is exactly what the enemy wants. If he can overwhelm you with the thought of the struggle, you won't be able to see God's grace to get you through to the other side. And God tells us in His word that His grace is sufficient! He also tells us ***“Never will I leave you, never will I***

forsake you” Hebrews 13:5. So, as long as we are willing to get up and walk out that door, He will be with us to help every step of the way!

Your freedom is precious – so precious, that God sent His only son to die upon the cross so that you may have it! Enjoy every freedom that He has given you and experience your life the way He intended – with joy unspeakable and full of glory!

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