

Bridgeway Community Church
Eli Hernandez
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Things to Remember: Freedom

Breaking the Chains That Are Holding You Down

Pastor Eli Hernandez

The word of transformation for today: SHIFT

Jesus and the Centurion: Matthew 8:5-13

v.8: The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Key Verse Today:

Galatians 5:1 ESV

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

“Every time that you are controlled by anything in your life, you are enslaved by it...This is not God’s intent for your life...if it enslaves us it becomes a god and that is called idolatry.”

Matthew 6:24 NIV

[Jesus speaking] No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

1. In Order to Appreciate Our Freedom, We Must Embrace Our Captivity

You sometimes need to face up to the struggles, sins and confront them, not always run away from them.

“One of the worst things in the world is to be blinded by the fact that you are enslaved by a particular situation and you don’t even know it.”

Judges 16:20 ESV

And she [Delilah] said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” **But he did not know that the Lord had left him.**

“This is the problem: some people prefer to live in captivity rather than to be free... they have something or someone to blame for their brokenness.”

“When you are free, you need to take on the responsibilities.”

Romans 6:18 NIV

You have been set free from sin and have become **slaves to righteousness.**

“I’ve made a decision to embrace my brokenness and my captivity as part of the journey that God is using to make me a stronger man of God.”

“I stopped making excuses and I started to make moves.”

2. The Only True Source of Freedom is Jesus Christ.

Luke 4:18 ESV

[Jesus speaking] The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed

“Sometimes oppression...influences...your struggles just breaks you down...but the moment that God comes in, everything that has limited you will be broken in the name of Jesus.”

John 8:32 NIV

[Jesus speaking] Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:36 NIV

[Jesus speaking] So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

“There are struggles in life that only the Lord can set us free from.”

Mark 9:28-29 NKJV

And when He [Jesus] had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”

“There are struggles that you are dealing with in life...nothing has been able to help me more than the blood of Christ...you need to surrender yourself to the presence of God and power of the Holy Spirit so that he can transform your life.”

Ephesians 6:12 NIV

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

“Yes, there are human battles, but don’t be ignorant to the fact that there is also something spiritual happening in the background that you may not see.”

“Spiritual matters have to be fought in the Spirit.”

Psalm 142:7a NKJV

Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name;

Psalm 142:7a NIV

Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name.

"You don't have to walk around defeated by your struggles and your captivity. There is freedom in Christ Jesus. There is freedom through the Holy Spirit. You just got to embrace what God is doing in your life."

Romans 8:37 NIV84

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him [Jesus Christ] who loved us.

Philippians 4:13 NIV

I can do all this through him [Jesus Christ] who gives me strength.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. According to scripture, we need to pray and fast (forgotten practice).

"How can you be victorious if you don't even talk to the Lord?"

2. Don't be ashamed but rather accept your captivity as a testimony of what God is doing.

I've learned to appreciate my story, it's made me stronger and God has shown me his love through it all.

3. Find help, don't just dwell in your struggle but seek others to help you get through your situation.

Help can come in many forms; counseling, mentorship, coaching, accountability, books, retreats, spiritual warfare, confession, conversations, companionship, etc.

4. Humble yourself and learn from other people's brokenness and mistakes.