

[https://youtu.be/6NENgZXjE\\_o](https://youtu.be/6NENgZXjE_o)

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

People want to be free. Free to go where they want when they want, free to say what they want. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of choice. Freedom is the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved. We had a small taste of the limitation of our freedom during level 5 lock down. If you think about it, people will never be free by human standards. There is always rules and regulations to abide by. Traffic rules, taxes, just to mention a few. The Word tells us that true freedom is only experienced where the Spirit of God is. To comprehend this freedom, we need to start at the beginning with creation where the foundation has been laid. We need to understand some principles before we will understand what true freedom means.

**The Spirit & Creation**

**Genesis 1:1-3**

***The Creation***

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light*

God is Spirit and naturally the Spirit was there at the beginning as part of the trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Jesus being the Word that John speaks of that later became flesh to live amongst us. The Spirit was moving over the surface of waters. In the beginning the earth was freed from being formless and from darkness and from being void. When God created man, he blew his Breath/Spirit into man and man became a living being.

**Genesis 2:7**

*Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

Like with the earth the Spirit filled the void within man with His presence. There was only one rule and two people could not obey that one rule. How would billions of people comply if two people couldn't obey?

**Genesis 2:16-17**

*The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*

Sin moved Adam and Eve out of God's presence. They did not feel the freedom to be in God's presence, they felt naked and shame. They did not know how to deal with this new feeling and tried to cover themselves up with leaves.

**Genesis 3:8**

*They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

**Learnings:**

God is Spirit and the Spirit has been there from the beginning. **(Genesis 1:1-3)**

First the Spirit of God moves and then the Word manifests. First the Spirit moved over the waters then God spoke.

**(Genesis 1:1-3)**

Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit and then the Word was born.

**Matthew 1:18**

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit fills the void and filled the void in man. (**Genesis 2:7**)

From the beginning the Spirit of God was in man to give him life. (**Genesis 2:7**)

Sin separates man from God. Separation from the Spirit brings death. (**Genesis 3:8**)

The Spirit wills what God wills because God is Spirit and they are one.

### **2 Corinthians 2:17**

*For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.*

If the Spirit of God is in us, we are one with God. Jesus came to reunite us with God (The Spirit of life and truth).

### **Old covenant versus New Covenant (Life in the Spirit)**

#### **2 Corinthians 3:1-18 - Ministers of a New Covenant**

*Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory. Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

Moses represents the old covenant. The 10 commandments were given to bring about righteousness. Man, that could not obey one rule would never be able to handle obedience to 10. We don't live by the 10 commandments anymore as the commandments that had to save us condemned us. The commandments condemned us not because the commandments were bad, but we could not abide by the commandments. We do not live by the law but fulfill the law by life in the Spirit. Now by the Spirit we have become letters. Letters are used to communicate or send a message. We become living letters, living testimony, manifestation of the Spirit. The glory on Moses through the 10 commandments was so great that people could not look at his face. Moses had to cover his face with a veil. The same veil is still in place for those who choose to live under the law. How much more is the glory now on us with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

### **Romans 8:1-11**

#### ***Deliverance from Bondage***

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

Life in the Spirit does not mean that we do what we want when we want. Does that sound a bit confusing? The Word says where the Spirit is there is freedom, but we must live a certain way. To live a certain way means rules and regulations again. How can we be free if we must live a certain way? The answer lies in that when we have the indwelling of the Spirit, we want to live the life the Spirit wants us to live. The Spirit allows us the power or ability to live this life. If I want to do something it is no longer a law but a pleasure and a choice. There is a difference in abiding by the rules of marriage relationship and doing things in your marriage without obligations but because of the freedom of choice. Therefore, the Spirit is in our hearts and not on stone. We will from our hearts, not from law.

### **Functions of the Holy Spirit as Taught by Jesus:**

#### **1. Freedom**

***Galatians 5:1***

##### ***Walk by the Spirit***

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*

#### **2. Power to Witness**

***Acts 1:8***

*but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*

#### **3. To be our Helper**

***John 14:16***

##### ***Role of the Spirit***

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever*

#### **4. Dwell in us and be with us**

***John 14:17***

*that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*

#### **5. Teach us all things & bring to remembrance what Jesus said**

***John 14:26***

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

#### **6. Testifies of Jesus Christ**

***John 15:26***

*"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me*

#### **7. Convict world of sin, righteousness and judgment**

***John 16:8***

*And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;*

#### **8. Guide us in all truth and of things to come**

***John 16:13***

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come*

#### **9. Holy Spirit speaks to us**

***(John 16:13)***

#### **10. Glorifies Jesus**

***John 16:14***

*He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

#### **11. Fruit of the Spirit**

***Galatians 5:22-23***

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

#### **12. Gifting of the Holy Spirit**

***1 Corinthians 12:4***

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

#### **13. Unity in The Spirit**

***1 Corinthians 12:13***

*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*