

THE CHRISTIAN TEEN/YOUTH

7. Welcome to freedom land!

“You are completely freed by the power of God through your faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the freedom fighter. He fought it and won the victory for your total independence from the power of sin, self-life and Satan.”

A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. John 10:10 (from GOD'S WORD translation)

Do you remember Jesus saying, “...it is finished” in John 19:28-30? That’s it, that’s why you are free, you didn’t just know, perhaps. ‘...Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32 ESV. The TRUTH is Jesus himself (John 14:6) he is TRUTH personified. Knowing him is receiving understanding about his purpose for coming, and the blessings in his coming. Those who *receive the good news and remain in it* shall know Jesus progressively and experience the power that resurrected Jesus in their own mortal body. They will be empowered to live their lives in the victory of Jesus over sin, and the human nature. This because, “...the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power. 1 Cor. 1:18-19 GNB. And also in Rom. 1:16, Paul said,” ...I am not ashamed of the gospel, because **it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes:** first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

“The Gospel is the power of God over Satan and sin. The Gospel tells us that the power of sin has been broken.” -Chidi Okoroafor.

Beloved Christian teenager, the message about Christ’s death on the cross is the ultimate power by which Satan and all evils works were completely defeated for your sake, because the message envelops the power of God that destroyed all the works of Satan over the soul of man. If you believe in this message that Jesus actually came to the earth as flesh, suffered and died for the course of sin, you have received the power with

which God destroys all the works of the devil; you have overcome forever, remain in your victory.

You are completely Saved by God' grace

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (Tit. 2:11-12 NIV).

Having believed in the message of the cross, you have been saved forever because of your faith in this divine help (Grace) which God has brought to all mankind. But you must continually stay in this salvation by living the kind of life that pleases God; otherwise your salvation could slip out of your hands through Satan's tricks. You're now a new creation, you have been created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works (Eph. 2:10), this is powered by the Holy Spirit alone. You are to completely surrender your life unto Jesus, and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. You have been given the power to say “NO” to all other forms of ungodliness and lustful desires of the human nature.

The power to control yourself in everything, the divine ability to say “NO” to every of the natural and sinful desires of your bodily passion now lives in you because you abide in the faith of the gospel. You have been provided with all you need for life and for godly living through your increasing knowledge of Christ's personality (2 Pet. 1:2-8) and his finished works through the cross.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

Listen, Dear reader, your freedom was wrought by Christ, not you. You have no power in you to overcome any bad habit at all. Jesus has helped you out already. After making the way for you, he placed an invite, **“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”** (Matt. 11:28). You are free from every form of ungodly lifestyle that displeases God. Believe and Receive this freedom by faith.

How to receive this freedom:

1. Acknowledge it as God's gift for you, regardless of how bad you are (Rom. 6:23b);
2. Deny yourself of your natural goodness, and replace it with Christ's goodness towards you (Eph. 2:9);

3. Choose to carry your cross (acceptance that you died to sin when Jesus was crucified) to follow Jesus daily (2 Cor. 5:14-15);
4. Believe in the word of God, and abide in it (John 8:31);
5. Believe in the finished work of Christ (John 19:30);
6. Accept it that in his death, you received Spiritual life, and you have been completely alienated from the path of spiritual death (Col. 2:13; Eph. 2:1);
7. Believe that you have the power of God (i.e. the gospel) resident in you now (1 Cor. 1:18);
8. Believe that Jesus has overcome the world for you (John 16:33);
9. Your sins are forgiven (1 John 2:12);
10. Know and believe that when you sin, you have an advocate -Jesus Christ with the Father, who is ever pleading for you (1 John 2:1);
11. Believe that he loves you so deeply, despite you weaknesses (Rom. 5:8);
12. Make the word of God your first and final choice (Deut. 32 46-47);
13. Teach others the truth about Christ also (Matt. 28:20);
14. Talk about the word of God everywhere you are (Deut. 6:4-6);
15. Proclaim what you believe (2 Cor. 4:13);
16. Instantly obeying the voice of the Lord (Jam. 1:22; Deut. 5:33);
17. Give the word of God first place in your life, and in every activity every day (Josh. 1:8);
18. Resolve to live your life as Jesus did (1 John 2:6);
19. Walk by the Word of God and by the Spirit of God (Gal.5:16);
20. Feed on the word of God, eat it daily, consume as much as you can everyday (Ezra 7:10; Ezek. 3:3; Psalm 1);
21. Be committed to your personal prayer altar daily (Eph. 6:16);
22. Guard your heart (Prov. 4:23);
23. Fill your mind only with helpful resources, such as are healthy for new creation life (Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:5);
24. Put to death any stubborn attitude you notice in you (Deut. 21:18-21) and cry out to God to help you out of all addictions;
25. Keep your mind renewed daily using the word of God (Rom. 12:2);
26. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Phil. 4:8 NLT

Dear child of God, these scriptures apply to every area of your life, and not just to help you walk in freedom over addictions. You may not be struggling with any form of addiction but understand that the habits of the human nature are obvious, and

manifests in many different manners. In some people, it is anger, in some it is witchcraft, etc. Therefore use these instructions to combat every manifestation of self-life in which the addiction to satisfy the bodily desires find its expression.

Right now, you have complete victory over the world, over Satan, over sin, over sickness, over poverty, over death, and all that worldly people are doomed to suffer here on earth, because you now live in Christ. But perhaps you have not given your heart to receiving of the life of Jesus, you can do so right now.

Pray like this:

Dear God, I desire to call you Father. Remove everything that has kept me separated from you to this time, and make me your friend. I know you love me. I believe Jesus died to provide me with eternal life if I believe, I believe from today. I confess and repent from every of my wrongdoings in the past and the future. Help me remain in your love, and to abide in your word for the rest of my life. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can know your will and receive the blessings you have kept in Christ for me. Be with me from today, and help me to tell others about your great grace and unconditional love for humanity. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.