



The Chronicle

The Cathedral Church of the Redemption

CNI, Diocese of Delhi

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Spiritual Freedom in Christ

First and foremost let me wish each one of you a happy Independence Day! India is celebrating its 66th Independence Day with 65 years of freedom. It is indeed a great joy for each one of us to live in a country which has a vibrant democracy. Freedom is something that we cannot take for granted. We are grateful to God for our freedom fighters who have enabled us to break free from the bondage of the British. Over these past 65 years India has grown in leaps and bounds in the area of Science and Technology, particularly in the field of IT. We have grown to be one of the powers that need to be reckoned with in the IT field as well as in the BPO sector. Developed nations like the USA particularly feel the competition and tend to blame India for the loss of their internal jobs. While on one side India has progressed rapidly, on the other side the gap between the rich and the poor has widened substantially and poverty is very much an issue that we need to address. In a recent article in the Times of India (August 2nd 2012), they showed that while the economic growth of India has been good, the gap between the rich and the poor, both in rural and urban settings have widened. Since 2009-10, monthly expenditure of the poorest 10% in rural India has risen by only 11.5% while that of the richest 10% has gone up by 38%. In a similar manner, the monthly expenditure of the poorest 10% of the urban population has risen by 17.2% and that of the richest 10% by 30.5% (68th National Sample Survey Organisation).



A second area which we need to address is the area of corruption. Corruption has permeated every area of our day to day lives. From politicians to pan walas, from bureaucrats to babus corruption has seeped into every nook and cranny. Very often laws are legislated to curb corruption and also to make sure that those who are below the poverty line are made recipients of affirmative action. In spite of all this, we are not able to curb corruption or to eradicate poverty. The reason why we have not been able to do this is because we have seen poverty and corruption as social issues rather than spiritual issues. The root of the problem is the sinful nature of human beings. Human selfishness and greed does not allow room for those who are weak and vulnerable to exist as equals within our society. True transformation in any society can only come about when there is a transformation of the heart. This transformation of the heart cannot come about with all the information we have. We live in a world of information overload, particularly through the World Wide Web. But in spite of this web of knowledge we are not in a position to do that which is right because the human heart is evil.

The second major problem is that though we have the knowledge and think that we can change society through our will power we are not in a position to do so. We may also use our intellect to diagnose what the problem is, but are not in a position to bring out the corrective measures in our society corporately. If this is the kind of situation that we are in as a nation, then what is the solution? The root of many social evils which manifests itself both individually and corporately is a spiritual problem where we have alienated ourselves from God. It is because of our rebellion against God that we have no love for each other nor are we concerned about others. It is in this kind of context that God offers us a freedom that will both transform us and our society when we turn to him. Christ promises us true spiritual freedom from the bondage of sin, which in turn will help us transform our society and build our nation.

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Many people feel that maybe a Lokpal Bill or stringent laws against corruption will make our nation corruption free. However, laws can never change human beings. During the time of Jesus there were Scribes and Pharisees who also thought that more laws were essential to maintain a just community. The Scribes and Pharisees had become very legalistic about their faith. In fact, the Pharisees had gone to such an extent that they had over 613 laws to make sure that the Ten Commandments were not broken. In spite of all these laws that were made as a protective hedge, they still were not able to keep the law internally. They were very rigid in the external keeping of the law, but their hearts were far away from God. Jesus internalised the law particularly in the Sermon on the Mount, and sets people free from the bondage of legalism. Laws can never transform people; at best they can only act as a deterrent, but cannot bring about any change in the character of the person. So in order for any radical change to take place there needs to be a transformation of the heart and mind. This transformation cannot happen on its own but will have to come about with the help of God's Holy Spirit. What we set our minds on has eternal consequences. To set the mind on something is to have the desires of the Spirit or of the flesh and to make them the "absorbing objects of thoughts, interest, affection and purpose". Our mind-set is critical for any real change to take place.

Transformation can only take place by the renewing of the mind. Once this happens we would be able to test and approve what God's will is, that is to discern, appreciate and determine to obey God's will (Romans 12:1-2). It is only through a combination of the Holy Spirit and the word of God that our minds can be transformed. The Holy Spirit renews and regenerates every part of our humanness which has been warped and distorted by the fall including our mind. Not only do we need the Holy Spirit, but we also need the Word of God which is the sword of the Spirit and acts as an objective revelation.

So as we look back on our nation we are thankful to God for giving us this beautiful country to live in where we have enjoyed political freedom for a little over six decades. As we are in the next decade what we need is a spiritual transformation of our country. This alone will bring about true freedom equality, justice and liberty in our nation. Justice and righteousness can only come about with the preaching of the Gospel. The place to begin for the transformation of any society is the proclamation of the Gospel. We are to make known to our nation what God has done. There can be no new social order without the forgiveness of sin, without a new nature. The Church is to bring the just and merciful reign of God to our nation. So we have a task cut out for us as the people of God. We are to proclaim the good news by word and deed and bring about the salvation of our people from the bondage of sin. Only then will we as a nation be free indeed. May we as co-workers with God present this freedom to the people of our nation without fear or favour. Jai Hind!

Paul Swarup



The spiritual freedom is with Lord our Christ

Spiritual freedom is a grave issue. Being the Children of God, our Lord has tried to lead us on the path of righteousness. And this, he has undertaken this task since the age of Adam, as He wants us to have eternal life subsequent to the Judgment Day. Whatever good or bad we do, everything has been accounted for as it has been noticed by God.



God had previously warned Cain before he killed his brother Abel, but Cain ignored God's voice and took his brother's life. The Bible says that Satan incites us to do his bidding and we follow him; the path of evil filled with sin and thereby making us the enemies of God. After being baptized, when Jesus fasted for forty days, Satan also tried Jesus, but Satan failed in each of its attempt. (Matthews 4:1-11).

The sin has been etched in our minds and hearts. In Gospel, we find it at many places where Jesus says that – “The sin is in our words, in our thoughts” (Marks: 7).

How can we be saved from the clutches of sin and Satan?

And Jesus said- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

The people of God have to face trials in every sphere of life. Those who are scared of death become slaves of Satan and are engrossed in sin. But they, who are prepared to give their life for Christ, attain spiritual freedom in real. As it is written in Mathews 10:28, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

If we are ready to sacrifice our life for our Lord, we should pray for our enemies, as Jesus did even when he was being crucified. Apostle Paul offered his heart to Lord and that's why he was prepared to sacrifice his life for Jesus. The Roman Empire and Jews tortured him tremendously, whipped him and imprisoned him, but Paul had already offered his life to Jesus, so he was not afraid of death.

How could we be spiritually free?

Jesus says (Marks14:38)-“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” So let's follow the path shown to us by Christ so that we could be entitled of eternal life with a free spirit in the truest sense. Praise the Lord.

D.Vidyanandam



“AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE”

John 8:32

The very essence of real spiritual freedom can be derived from this verse of Gospel. The truth will set us free - and the truth is that our lord Jesus Christ is our savior, our redeemer.

“For freedom, Christ has set us free, stand firm therefore do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”. (Galatians 5:1)

But this kind liberty from slavery, from oppression does not make us free. Jesus gave his life on the Cross to purchase our freedom and redemption from the bondage of sin.

As Roman 8:2 has stated- *“For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

At the same time, we have to recognize our limitation on our actions as *“so we are no longer servants of sin but we are servants of righteousness.”*(Roman 6: 8). We must adhere to the words of Jesus Christ. We have to pay back to him what is due through the spiritual freedom he has given us; by being loyal to him, because it is written in The Holy Book—*“you are abide in my words.”*

So he has bought us by his blood and only by following Jesus, we are entitled to eternal life; when we bow down and submit to God's will.



Sometimes we get bogged down into a quandary regarding God's will. We worry about the decisions to be taken in our lives – jobs, marriage, household issues etc.

But if we pray diligently before taking any important decision, Jesus would help us to reconsider our faulty outlook and make us take the right decision in all spheres of our lives. The day we trust in God, he would deliver us from all fears, anxiety, and anger and open our eyes to what we truly are.

As most of the time either we lament over the past, or brood over the future, we forget that Jesus is our savior, that he would take best decisions for us. His closeness must teach us to see things from God's point of view. Then only we learn to have faith in our need, desire and well being rest will be kept securely in the arms of our loving heavenly Father.

But are we truly benefitting others by the spiritual freedom that we have received by Jesus?

Galatians 5:13 states that the freedom given to us by Jesus should be used to serve one another in love. As this freedom in Christ assures us the spiritual freedom we have in His kingdom. It is not the physical or earthly freedom, as when we walk with Jesus, we may be hated or killed for our faith but such assaults should not infringe on the freedom we enjoy in Christ.

We must make an individual choice to receive Jesus Christ as our savior. Receiving him involves turning away from the sinful ways by repentance and putting our trust in Jesus completely. When we become committed followers of Christ, he will lead us into an eternal life—a life of joyful reliance on what God does to us, where he supplies the Holy Spirit to us and work miracles among us.

So what we have to do?

Simply come in humility to the Lord Jesus Christ and he would genuinely liberate us by his saving grace.
Praise the Lord.

Anita Morris

An Inspirational Story

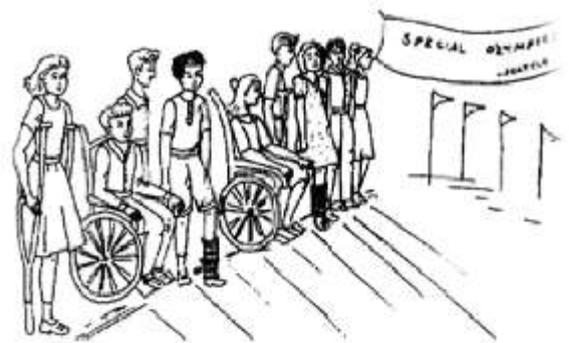
A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics nine of the contestants, who contested in the Paralympics, had assembled at the starting line for the 100 meter race. When the gunshot was fired, they started the race. It was not exactly done in a dash, but with the elation to run the race to finish and win. All of them, except one boy, who had stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy.

They slowed down and looked back. Each one of them turned around and went back. One girl who was with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." All nine linked arms and walked across the finish line together. Everyone in the stadium stood and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

To most of us what really matters in this life is winning. But the real purpose of our lives is to help others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our direction. Being the people of Christ, our Lord, we owe this responsibility hugely.

Neha Morris



Analyzing spiritual freedom in Christ

“Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want.”

Martin Luther

In this particular article I would analyze what Spiritual Freedom in Christ conveys. Thus, we need to decipher what freedom in its normative sense requires.

True freedom compels to bring with itself the conscience to distinguish between rhetoric and reality. It moves along the notion of responsibility through the vivacity brought through resistance to conformist tendencies and leads to the establishment of justice and harmony. And its purest form, it is that one truly experiences liberation.

With the given structure, I would like to analyze the following themes in the Christian understanding of the concept of freedom, precisely being spiritual freedom.

- **Conscience** - Brian Schwertley discerns freedom of conscience as the Salvation attained through spiritual liberty in Christ. Spiritual liberty cannot be taken for granted and should rather be seen as a choice. Our sins have been wiped away by the salvation that was brought the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, yet we should understand that the tenacity to temptation has not been erased. Thus it becomes vital that we as Christians correspond accordingly to the will of our savior and look at the Cross not as a burden but rather as an emblem of the forgiven followers in Christ.
- **Responsibility** – Freedom in Christ has to be considered as a serious responsibility. True freedom means living without the chains of sin and destructive behavior through our worldly attitudes. Jesus Christ has paid a price to release us from these bonds. Therefore, we should not comply with the delusion and a sense of hopelessness advocated by Satan through indulgence in damaging habits. God's grace would deliver us from our crushing burden and restore the peace in and around us, thereby truly liberating us.
- **Resistance** – Freedom in Christ does not entail to living a life with consequences and in a wayward manner. The cost paid was with a reason: so that we may obey God and choose a lifestyle advocating our faith in Christ. The purpose of Christ coming into the world was that we decipher the truth and not deviate while facing condemnation from the world while upholding Christian beliefs and values. It is to resist temptation and stay focused.
- **Liberation** – Human History has been a witness to the birth of sin. It has lead us many a times away from our creator who has shown remorse and wrath likewise. But through Christ's death and resurrection the promise of liberation has been kept intact. It is the basis of a renewed hope for believers of Christ to accomplish the task of serving Humanity and devote lives with the ideals of peace, love and justice. The word of God is the blueprint of the message of freedom and the liberating force driven through it.

Thus, if one has to overcome the world, the answer is in understanding the Christ. The truth from the guidance in the teachings of Christ will enable us to come out from the claims of matter; to overcome the fear of material conditions, to be untouched by merely worldly ambitions, or by the malevolence of mankind. It is a complete surrender to God's infinite grace and power. It brings you the radiant, triumphant sense of conscious oneness with God.

By attaining spiritual freedom in Christ, one no longer clings to a human sense of personality. We are freed from the baggage of mortal history and the errors and of a flawed personality. The freedom provided in the Love of our Creator helps us transcend through the mirage of material beliefs to the light and freedom of God's universe. And you feel the comfort of liberation through Christ. All praises to our heavenly Father. Amen.

R. Britikah

Spiritual freedom in Christ : An Analogy

Spiritual freedom in Christ exemplifies the meaning of asserting deep rooted faith in Jesus Christ, our redeemer and savior, as Jesus is fondly known. It helps us to experience things in a completely different approach. It leads us to have a steadfast assurance in Christ and helps us to believe in him whole-heartedly who has promised us to be with us forever. It is he who has blessings in abundance for us but the imperative condition being devoted faith to him.

Spiritual freedom in Christ is also to rely on the fact that Jesus will never forsake us in times of trial. We should show full confidence in his teachings to chart out a path which advocates the Christian principles by loving one another and to face tough times irrepressibly by taking our God's name. The word amazing is an understatement for Jesus, as he is beyond and above it.

Shishir Kumar



The Spiritual liberty in Christ

As we know on 15th August 1947, our country 'India' was liberated from the clutches of the British rule. Liberty in its manifestation is the birth right of every person. It does not create room for disparity on the basis of caste, creed, colour or gender. Everyone deserves to be free.

When we closely follow the readings in the Bible, it teaches us-

“Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthian 3:17).

Here the talk on liberty entails more than what is generally understood as political liberty. It is a sort of liberty which only God can give and which arrives when the spirit of the Lord arrives. This spiritual liberty helps us to get rid of the slavery of sin, penalty of sin, guilt of sin and death of sin.

First and foremost, there is nothing more horrible than the slavery of sin; because of sin we become slaves. Through sin, we are bound to sickness, mental depression etc. Remember, because of the Israelites' sin, they became slaves in Egypt. But here is the good news; God does not leave us slaves to sin.

“If the son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:37).

The arms of Jesus are open for us. We no longer need to be a slave to sin. Jesus will forgive us. He says:

“Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”. (Matthew 11:28).

Therefore, we need to confess our sins to Him and He will forgive us.

A sinner without the grace of God is a slave to sin. He/she cannot deliver himself/herself from his/her sins. But for the believers – God delivered us! Yes, we have been freed from the slavery of sin.

Secondly, what is the penalty of sin? It is eternal death. That is what the scripture tells us –

“For the wages of sin is death”. But we should be happy that the verse does not stop there but goes to say, *“But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”*. (Romans 6:23)

So according to this, sinners deserve death and deserve to be condemned. The sinner would deserve to die. Yet, the gift of God is eternal life given in Christ Jesus our Lord. Only he can set us free from the penalty of sin. If we are not forgiven, death and hell would become our destination. The Bible tells us: *“Those who believe in Him won't be condemned. But those who don't believe are already condemned because they don't believe in God's only son.”* (John 3:18).

Jesus had suffered the punishment for our sin. Instead he took our place. Every lash from the whip – He received for us. His hand and feet were pierced for us.

Thus penalty of sin has been paid and we have been liberated. “It is finished” was cry from the cross. True – we are sinners – but Christ died for the sinners. It is true, we deserve punishment – but the price of the punishment has been paid. Hell's iron gates are locked forever and ever against every believer. Jesus paid the punishment for our sins and now we have been set free.

Thirdly, when we believe in Jesus Christ, not only are we free from the slavery of sin; we are made free from the penalty of sin – but also from the guilt of sin as well.

“As far as the east is from the west, so far He removed our transgressions from us”. (Psalm 103:12)

If our transgressions have been removed – we are no longer guilty. Jesus proclaims us to be holy. He proclaims us to be innocent. Here we stand as a sinner – guilty as charged. Yet Christ came for our salvation and became a ransom for us.

Finally, Paul had written long ago:

“O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”. (Romans 6:23)

The word “but” has always found great usage in the human language. Because of our sin we will die – but... Because we are living in rebellion against God, we deserve death – but... Because we have fallen short of God's glory, we are doomed – but... God did something in a very supernatural way for us. He sent His only son to take care of the sin problem.

How many people in this world are afraid of death? Perhaps more than half of the world's population. If we know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour – we need not to fear death because Jesus has risen from the dead and has given us the assurance to eternal life.

Implications: -

Are we truly free?

Jesus offers us freedom. He said:

“If the son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

We need to analyse ourselves by asking - Have we received Jesus in our Life?

Are we really free from the bondage of sin?

On the death bed if someone asks us “Are you sinking into death?”, do we have courage and assurance to proclaim boldly that how can I sink when I am standing on a solid rock?

Have we upheld Jesus as our solid rock?

Christ has redeemed our sins and we have to receive His forgiveness and His righteousness.

This is the reason why Jesus Christ came in this world - to provide us the spiritual liberty that we share and have in Christ.

Amen.

Dn. Sasimual



Tu Hi Mera Rehbar

TU HI MERA REHBAR.TU HO RAHNUMAAI HAI,
SHAINTAAN KE CHANGUL SE, JAAN HAMAARI BACHAAI HIA.

RAAHON ME YAHAN WAHAN BHATAK RAHE THE,
JAB DEKHA TO CHARO TARAF, TERI KHUDAAI HAI.

YAA RAB TU NE YE KAISI SUNДАР DUNIYA BANAAI HAI,
HAME GUNHAAON SE AAZADI DILAAI HAI.

HAR MUHABBAT ME TERI HI MUHABBAT AAI HAI,
HAMAARE WAASTE JISANE KRUS PAR JAAN GAWAANI HAI.

SHUKR KARTI HUN KHUDAAYA TERI SAB AASHISHEN PAAI HAIN,
TERE HI LAHOO SE PAAKIZAGI PAAI HAI.

JAN PADHATI HUN KALAAM-E-PAAQ KO,
USI SE MAINE ASEEM SHAANTI PAAI HAI.

MAA KI MAMTA BHI TU NE HI BANAAI HAI,
USI ME SAARI KHUDAAI CHHPAAI HAI.

MERI DHADHHKANO ME AAS AZAADI KI CHHIPAAI HAI,
'WILLI' ME APNE PYAR KI LAU CHHIPAAI HAI.

Jaini N. Williams



Masihi Gazal

MASIHIYON UTHO, EK AISA GHAR BANAYE
MASIHI JO BEGHAR HAIN, USAME BASAAYEN

JO BHATAKE HUE HAIN, MASIHAT SE RAAHI
MASIHAT ME UNKO, DOBARA MILAAYEN

MASIHAT KI HAI JO KALAAMI HIDAAYAT
TASAVVUR ME BHI, NA KISI KO SATAAYEN

JO DUNIYA KI HAIVAANIYAT ME HAIN KHOYE
UNHI ME SE KUCHH DHOONDH MASIHI BANAAYEN

USOOLE-BAKAA KE MUTAABIK CHALE HAM
MUHABBAT SE SABKO GALE SE LAGAAYEN

SALAAH EK 'GHAAYAL' DIYE JAA RAHE HAIN
JO GAAFIL MASIHI SE HAIN, MASIHI PAAS LAAYEN

Dr.David Lal 'GHAAYAL'Dehalvi



Edit Speak

On the occasion of commemorating India's 66th Independence Day, I greet you all in the name of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ. The current edition of the Chronicle newsletter has hoped in its outcome for our readers to realize the true potential of spiritual growth in Christ; a valuable asset and the bridge of harmony which it establishes with itself. The need of the hour is to serve God's calling and fight by resisting oppression from the earthly commands and misguided information. Freedom in Christ has and will always endow us with the higher purpose and resolve to achieve true liberation and help us break the bondages from the tyranny of sin.



I would like to express my thanks to members of the Editorial Board -- Rev. Paul Swarup, Mrs. Anita Morris for their expertise and help over the nuances regarding the detailing of each aspect. Another round of thanks would be to our congregation for their support and keen interest shown through the earlier editions of the Chronicle newsletter. Our hope is to live up to the standards and raise the bar with each edition. We look forward to many more articles in the future from our church members and their recommendations related to any issue.

Also for any grievances caused, we would like to apologize and hope to rectify it in our next edition.

I would like to sum up with a poem:

To Do List From God

I ran my life in search of worldly things;
My time and will were firmly in control.
I thought I had no need for what God brings;
I gave no heed to murmurs from my soul.
“You're planning, doing all the time,” it said,
“But something else is missing deep inside.
Your mind is whirling, but your heart is dead,
So turn to God and let go of your pride.”
I did, and God said, “Here's My plan for you:
Give your life to Me, and just let go.
Have faith and pray, and read the Bible through,
And you'll have blessings more than you can know.”
So simple, yet it brings me perfect peace,
Living life for God the way I should.
Direction, purpose, fullness and release—
Life with God is very, very good.

By Joanna Fuchs

R. Britikah



Final Call



“If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: “God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled.” When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage.”

John Owen