



March 28, 2010

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MESSAGE NOTES

# HOPE FLOW

## LETTING GOD'S LOVE FLOW THROUGH US EVERY DAY!



**Day 1: “For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”—2 Corinthians 3:17**

Freedom! Ain't it awesome?

◆ Where in your life have you experienced freedom?

Let's face it—sometimes we people can be... stupid. And even though God gives us freedom, we don't always take it. For different reasons, we prefer the sin, the moral rebellion against God, instead of His freedom. I know I do sometimes.

◆ Where in your life have you *not* experienced freedom?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to work in your life. Give God glory and thanks for the freedom He's given you. Pray for yourself to accept the freedom in the area(s) of your life where you haven't accepted His freedom.

**Day 2: “So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.”—Galatians 5:1**

I know from my own experience and from that of others, even after coming to know Christ as Lord and King, it can become all too easy to get into a rhythm and routine; going through the motions for God without really experiencing God and having a real relationship and friendship with Him. The motions and the routines can become the focus instead of God Himself. Have you ever felt that way before? Experiencing the freedom of Christ only to get caught up in the slavery of religion?

◆ How can you get out of that?

◆ Are you currently going through something like that right now?

If you are, don't worry, you're not alone. The solution is to cast off everything that's hindering you from loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and run to God and re-fall passionately and tenaciously in love with Him again. If you're not in a place of slavery to religion, cool! Cast off everything as a preventative measure and love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

**Day 3: “For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil”—1st Peter 2:16**

Freedom. What does it mean? What images does it conjure up in your mind at the sight of the word? For me, one of the final scenes of the movie Braveheart comes to mind. He shouts out the word “Freedom” at the top of his lungs as he's about to be executed.

Freedom doesn't necessarily mean we can do whatever we want. Freedom in Christ means we're no longer opposing God. We're His children. And as His children, we need to represent our Father with our very lives.

◆ What's easy about this?

◆ What's hard and challenging about this?

Be bold and ask someone to pray with you over the hard and challenging aspects of living your life out for God.

**Day 4: “But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it”—James 1:25**

◆ So, what does the law say?

◆ How does God want you to lead your life?

◆ How are you leading your life?

**Day 5: “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”—Philippians 2:5-11**

◆ What does it mean and look like for your attitude to be like that of Christ Jesus?

◆ What in your life is a good reflection of that?

◆ What in your life is a bad reflection of that?

◆ What are you going to do about it?