

November 10, 2024

Liberated Through Christ

Liberation through Christ Jesus transcends physical circumstances and speaks to being freed from sin and oppression. Jesus declared his purpose to set the captives free and deliver those bound by the chains of life. We long to be free, and through Jesus, we are invited to experience the fullness of life God intended—unshackled and embraced by grace.

Darius Woodley, a New York pastor, wrote, “Imagine holding a set of keys that grant access to everything in this world. Now picture those keys being snatched away by someone else. Suddenly, all your access is revoked. Similarly, Satan once held the keys to death and hell, wielding power over humanity through sin. But through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, those keys have been reclaimed. Sin no longer has dominion over us; we have been liberated by the blood of the Lamb”¹ (Romans 6:14).

This week’s focus is on being liberated through Christ Jesus. No matter what makes us feel trapped or bound, God has sent Jesus to set us free! Some think of Luke 4:18-19, quoted from Isaiah, as Jesus’ mission statement. That would make sense. He stated why he was born into the world. Much of the reason is to liberate prisoners from injustice and sin. He came just as Isaiah said he would: to set the captives free.

Pastor Woodley wrote, “In the depths of despair, it's easy to feel as though we're bound by chains, trapped in a cycle of sin, fear, and hopelessness. But . . . through the power of Christ, we have been set free from the dominion of darkness.”² Consider the many ways people are bound in this world: Some people are oppressed by government power as the Israelites were during their captivity. Others are chained to addictions. We need someone to save us and set us free. That someone is Jesus the Messiah, who proclaims “release for captives and liberation for prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).

As we reflect on our own experiences—whether personal struggles, societal oppression, or the weight of sin—we are reminded that Christ’s mission was, and is, to set us free. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has reclaimed authority, offering freedom to all who believe. Let us embrace this freedom with gratitude, living each day as those who are no longer captives but children of God, empowered to walk in the light. May we carry this message of hope to others, pointing them to the one who breaks every chain and brings liberation.

1. What "chains" impact you and those around you? How can you bring Christ's message of liberation into these areas of bondage?
2. How does the understanding of Christ reclaiming "the keys to death and hell" offer you hope and strength?
3. What does it mean for you to live as "one who is no longer a captive but a child of God"?

¹From “Liberation Through Christ: Breaking the Chains of Death and Fear,” by Pastor Darius Woodley, Community Church of Christ (April 1, 2024).

²From “Liberation Through Christ: Breaking the Chains of Death and Fear.”