

Christian life
at BCF

Freedom

9.30AM SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2026

Join us for a morning of original songs, testimony and word ministry from Josh Mackay.



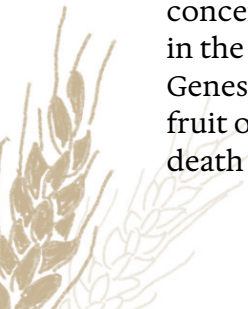
Are you truly free?

Most people assume they are already free. But what if you are not as free as you think? In John 8:32, Jesus said, 'And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' But the people He was speaking to already thought they were free, and so they felt no need of the truth that He spoke about.

What Jesus meant was something that was far removed from what they were thinking. When they answered Him by saying that they were already free, He replied, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.' John 8:34. Jesus was saying that all mankind live under the dominion of sin and death. This is not the kind of captivity that we naturally recognise, because it is not outward.

The apostle Paul came to realise how much of a captive he was when he wrote, 'For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practise'. Romans 7:19. If we are honest with ourselves, regardless of our upbringing, we can recognise this truth for ourselves. Our intentions are often good, but our actions do not always reflect that.

When sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, the result was death. God had warned them concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: 'For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.' Genesis 2:17. When they disobeyed God and chose to eat the fruit of the tree, they did not die instantly; nevertheless, death entered the world.



In response to this sin God said:

‘Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.
Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.
In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.’

Genesis 3:17-19

From that point on, human life has been marked by toil and sorrow, but more significantly, by the certainty of sin and death.

This is the reality of the world we live in. Death reigns over all. There are often unconscious consequences to this because we become driven, or motivated, by the fear of death. While many people are not consciously thinking about being afraid of dying as they go about their day, nevertheless, the fear of death still shapes human life more than we often realise. The desire to succeed, to be secure, and to find happiness and comfort is often driven by that fear. Without knowing it, we can live in captivity to the fear of death.

Jesus offers freedom from this captivity, but before we can be set free, we must first recognise that we are captive, and that true freedom is found in Him alone.



Questions to consider...

- Have you ever experienced the struggle Paul describes in Romans 7:19 — wanting to do good, but doing otherwise? What does it mean that we doing the thing we did not want to do?
- Why does Jesus connect truth to freedom in John 8:32?
- In what ways might fear of death quietly influence the way people live, work, or make decisions?
- Why is recognising our captivity an important first step toward freedom?
- Why do you think the idea of spiritual captivity can be hard for people to accept?

You are warmly invited to join us:

- Songs and worship | 9.30am – 10.15am
- Word ministry | 10.15am – 11.00am
- Morning tea | 11.15am – 12.30pm

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