"AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"...

FREEDOM - A great thing...

"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honour, duty, mercy, hope..."

Winston Churchill





FREEDOM – The aim of the ages...

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"

Thomas Jefferson Declaration of Independence 1776



An age of unparalleled freedom French Revolution 1789 threw off religious and regal constraint and preached enlightenment, individual expression and rationalism...

"Man will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest" Denis Diderot (1713-1784) An age of unparalleled freedom **French Revolution 1789** threw off religious and regal constraint and preached enlightenment, individual expression and rationalism...

Charles Darwin 1859 attacked cherished beliefs of God, creation and moral responsibility

"Freedom of thought is best promoted by the gradual illumination of men's minds which follows by the advance of science" Charles Darwin (1809-1882) An age of unparalleled freedom French Revolution 1789 threw off religious and regal constraint and preached enlightenment, individual expression and rationalism...

Charles Darwin 1859 attacked cherished beliefs of God, creation and moral responsibility

Julius Wellhausen 1883 and the German school of higher critics led an all out assault on the inspiration and veracity of the Scriptures

"A new form of rationalism, which sought to interpret orthodoxy in such a liberal way as to reconcile it with philosophy, was represented by... German philosophers..." A History of Freedom of Thought J.B Bury Pg 202

An age of unparalleled freedom French Revolution 1789 threw off religious and regal constraint and preached enlightenment, individual expression and rationalism... Charles Darwin 1859 attacked cherished beliefs of God, creation and moral responsibility Julius Wellhausen 1883 and the German school of higher critics led an all out assault on the inspiration and veracity of the Scriptures Friedrich Nietzsche 1887 and other philosophers led a crusade to proclaim God dead, extol perspective rather than truth, and preach nihilism (pointlessness) as the goal of life

> "Freedom is the will to be responsible for ourselves" Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

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By the **1960s**, after WWII, everyone was ready for a full moral revolution to enthrone man as the ultimate being and protect his rights to do whatever he/she chose... The age of **ULTIMATE FREEDOM!**

So what is meant by "Freedom"?

"The preciousness and dignity of the individual person is a central humanist value. Individuals should be encouraged to realise their own creative talents. We reject all religious, ideological, or moral codes that denigrate the individual, **suppress freedom**, dull intellect, dehumanize personality. We believe in maximum individual autonomy consonant with social responsibility." Humanist Manifesto II Dec 1973

"The effect of liberty to individuals is that they may do what they please; we ought to see what it will please them to do, before we risk congratulations which may be soon turned into complaints." Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

The foundations of FREEDOM...

THE WORLD

FREEDOM from **AUTHORITY** (God) in order to **SIN**

"But what is liberty without wisdom, and without virtue? It is the greatest of all evils; for it is folly, vice and madness without tuition or restraint..." Edmund Burke 1790 LICENSE

THE TRUTH

FREEDOM from **SIN** in order to willingly submit to **AUTHORITY** (Christ)

"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8v31-32



What can we be ENSLAVED to?

Depression

Phones/Devices

Fame

Exercise/Nutrition /Fitness

Work

Ongoing

identity crisis

Social media

Money

Fear of what others think of us

Video games



Internet use/ Pornography

Buying things

Gambling/Risk taking Being entertained

Alcohol and drugs

Being a Follower

Food/eating



Depression

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SLAVES to corruption...

"For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning." **II Peter 2v18-20**

"None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who firmly believe they are free..." Johann Wolfgang van Goethe



Freedom from serving SIN...

CHRIST

"They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in **bondage** to any man: How sayest thou, Ye shall be made **free**? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the **servant of sin**" **John 8v34**

APOSTLE PAUL

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin...Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness...For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness..." Romans 6v17-20

What is Scriptural BONDAGE? Hardness Suffering Bitterness Exod 1v14 **II Cor 11v20 Exod 1v14 Being taken** Rigour No peace advantage of **I Cor 7v15** (strictness) **II Cor 11v20 Exod 1v14** Corruption Sighing and crying **Rom 8v21 Exod 2v23**

Groaning Exod 6v5

Anguish Exod 6v9

Cruelty Exod 6v9

Fear of death **Heb 2v15**

Evil **Deut 26v6**

Rom 8v15

Sorrow **Isa 14v3**

Fear

Affliction

Deut 26v6

What is Scriptural FREEDOM?

"And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage...



...For we were **bondmen**; yet our God hath **not forsaken** us in our **bondage**, but hath extended **mercy** unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a **reviving**, to **set up** the house of our God, and to **repair** the desolations thereof, and to give us a **wall** in Judah and in Jerusalem." Ezra 9v8-9

The Mission of our Lord...

"...it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel" I Samuel 17v25

"And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised..." Isaiah 61v1-3, Luke 4v18

"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God..." Galatians 1v4



The Completed Mission of our Lord...

"... And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8v32,36

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Corinthians 3v17

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage..." Galatians 5v1

1 The TENSION of FREEDOM

PHYSICAL FREEDOM JORDAN

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" Romans 8v21

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SLAVERY

RED SEA

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" Romans 8v2

FREEDOM

1 The TENSION of FREEDOM

"Spiritually therefore, as new creatures we are free, but physically we remain bound. Thence springs all our conflict. For live as we may "after the Spirit" Romans
8v4 our living is done through the body: our deliverance is not yet complete... there is therefore, of necessity a tension in our condition.

That is true of of the saintliest followers of the Lord, the Apostle Paul himself being witness **Romans 7v15-25**. With most of us the tension becomes compromise, and to speak as though it were otherwise is to be dishonest...We are encouraged and at the same time challenged. "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh" **Gal 5v16**. It is an ideal saying, but it holds the key to let us daily out of prison" **Freedom in Christ Bro Harry A Twelves Page 15-17**

2 The PARADOX of FREEDOM

SLAVERY WITHOUT CHOICE SLAVERY BY CHOICE

SLAVES TO CHRIST



SLAVES TO

SIN/SELF

"Whom the Egyptians keep in bondage" Exod 6v5



"I will not go out free" Exod 21v5

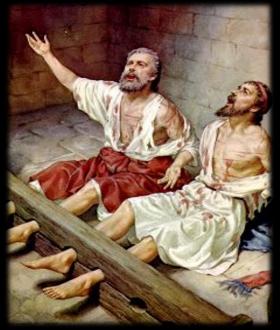
2 The PARADOX of FREEDOM

"Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is **the Lord's** freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant." I Corinthians 7v21-22

"Am I not an apostle? Am I not free?... For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." I Corinthians 9v1,19

IT IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE LOSE OURSELVES WILLINGLY IN OUR LORD'S SERVICE THAT WE EXPERIENCE FREEDOM...

3 The IRONY of FREEDOM



PAUL AND SILAS SINGING IN JAIL

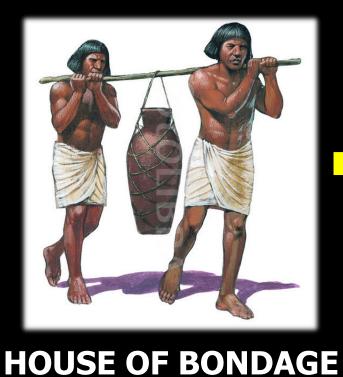
Sang because their hearts and minds were free!



PAUL IMPRISONED IN ROME

The chains that bound his hands could not bind his spirit!

FREEDOM is willingly changing MASTERS...





FATHER'S HOUSE (RIGHTEOUSNESS)

(SIN)

John 2v16, John 14v2

Exod 20v2, Deut 5v6

The "LIBERTY" passages...

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **spirit** of adoption, whereby we cry **Abba**, **Father**" **Romans 8v15** "...that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts crying Abba, Father" Galatians 4v5-6

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" Romans 8v21 "Stand fast therefore in the **liberty** wherewith Christ hath made us free" Galatians 5v1

"PERFECT" freedom

"We are free therefore to do our Father's will... New creatures are not free if they act contrary to their true nature; they are not free when they rebel against their Father, against their **spiritual heredity**. Their **perfect freedom** is found in His will..." **Freedom in Christ Bro Harry A Twelves Page 18-19**

> "Then are the children free..." Matt 17v20

When Adam and Eve sinned they became enslaved to the consequences of sin... "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Genesis 3v10

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SHAME

Guilt for what they had done in the past

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CONCEALMENT

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Guilt for what they had done in the past A desire to hide in the **present**

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Guilt for what they had done in the past

CONCEALMENT

2

A desire to hide in the **present** 3

FEAR

A fear for what God would do in the **future**





The FOUNDATION of FREEDOM

FREEDOM from3FRthe PASTtheSHAMECON

2

1

B FREEDOM in the PRESENT CONCEALMENT

FREEDOM for the FUTURE FEAR

4



FREEDOM = Story of the Bible...

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden, thou mayest **freely** eat..." **Genesis 2v16**



"...And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely..." Revelation 22v17

"AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"...

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2 FREEDOM from the PAST SHAME



"An EVIL conscience"

"The reader, by contemplating Adam and Eve in their innocency, and afterwards in their guilt, will perceive in the facts of their case the nature of a good conscience, and of an evil one. When they rejoiced in the "answer of a good conscience", they were destitute of shame and fear. They could stand naked in God's presence unabashed; and instead of trembling at His voice, they rejoiced to hear it as the harbinger of good things. They were then pure and undefiled being devoid of all conscience of sin... But mark the change that afterward came over them. When they lost their good conscience terror seized upon them at the voice of God, and shame possessed their souls; and they sought to get out of His sight, and to remove as far from Him as possible. Now what was the cause of this? There is but one answer that can be given, and that is Sin..." Elpis Israel Bro John Thomas Pg 85-86

SHAME = Story of the Bible...

"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" Gen 2v25



VERSUS

"...I counsel thee... that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;" "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Revelation 3v18,16v15

What is the difference between GUILT and SHAME?

When we avoid solving the problem...

GUILT Comes from doing something wrong "What I did was wrong"

Works to **solve** the problem **APOLOGIZE/AMENDS** /REPARATION SHAME Comes from being something wrong "Who I am is wrong"

Works to hide the problem CONCEALMENT/ DENIAL/WITHDRAWAL

The characterístics of SHAME...

II Sam 19v5 – "Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants"

Ezra 9v6 – "And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God" II Chron 32v21– "So he returned with shame of face to his own land."

Psalm 44v15 – "My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me"

SHAME RESULTS IN HIDING FACE OR SAVING FACE!

Feeling SHAME is feeling Human Nature...

"Shame is one of the **quintessential human emotions** – It affects all our feelings about ourselves, and all our dealings with others..."

"To understand shame is, in some sense to understand human nature... Shame is central in our lives...Our internal struggles are not battles between instincts and reality but conflict that typically involves the understanding and negotiating of shame..."

Michael Lewis Shame: The Exposed Self 1992 Page 1-2

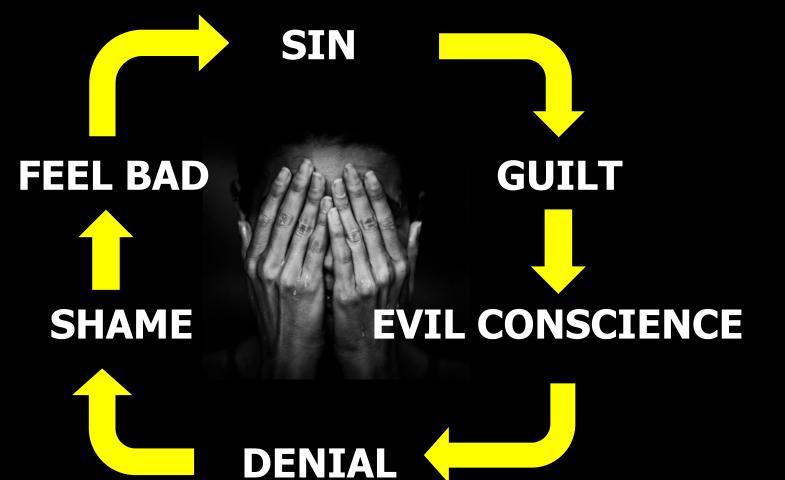
"The MASTER EMOTION"

"The most paradoxical aspect of neurotic shame is that it is the **core motivator** of the superachieved and the underachieved, the star and the scapegoat, the "righteous" and the wretched, the powerful and the pathetic..."

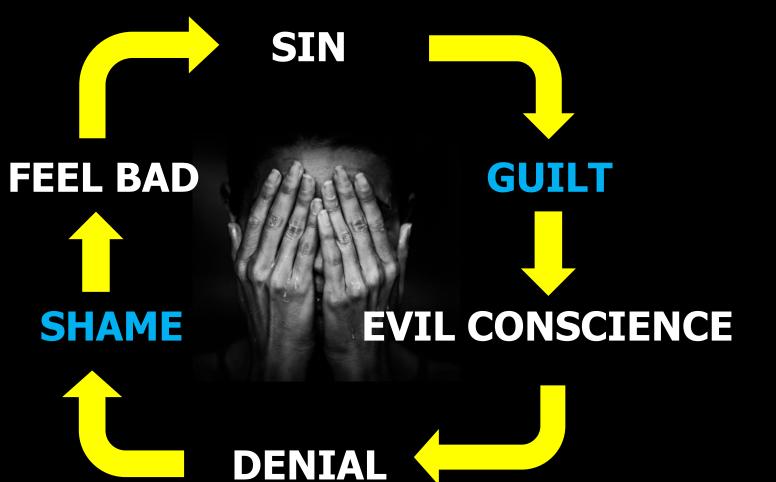
"Shame has been called the master emotion because as it is internalized, all the other emotions are bound by shame"

J Bradshaw Healing the Shame that binds you Pg 14,55

The CYCLE of SHAME...



The CYCLE of SHAME...



SHAME can dominate our lives...

"And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go?" II Sam 13v13

"For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God." Jeremiah 3v24-25

"Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?" Jeremiah 20v18

Being trapped by the PAST is being trapped to SHAME Holding onto events Broken personal or comments that relationships in which have hurt us we have been involved RESENTMENT DISAPPOINTMENT Abuse of some kind Feeling like this that makes us feel SHAME shouldn't have degraded happened to me **UNWORTHINESS ANGER** Our own Inability to admit our unwillingness to own contribution/faults let go and forgive in an incident PRIDE **GUILT**

How do we remove SHAME?



THE WORLD Genesis 3v7

"Compassionate self talk" "Own your attachment to past" "Focus on your competence" "Do things that bring you pride" "Celebrate your inner strength"

PROVIDED BY SELF

No blood or identification Cannot cleanse the conscience Externals only

> Leads to DENIAL and WITHDRAWAL Phil 3v19, Jude v13



THE TRUTH Genesis 3v21

Accepting God's covering

PROVIDED BY GOD

Blood and sacrifice Cleanses the conscience Internal change

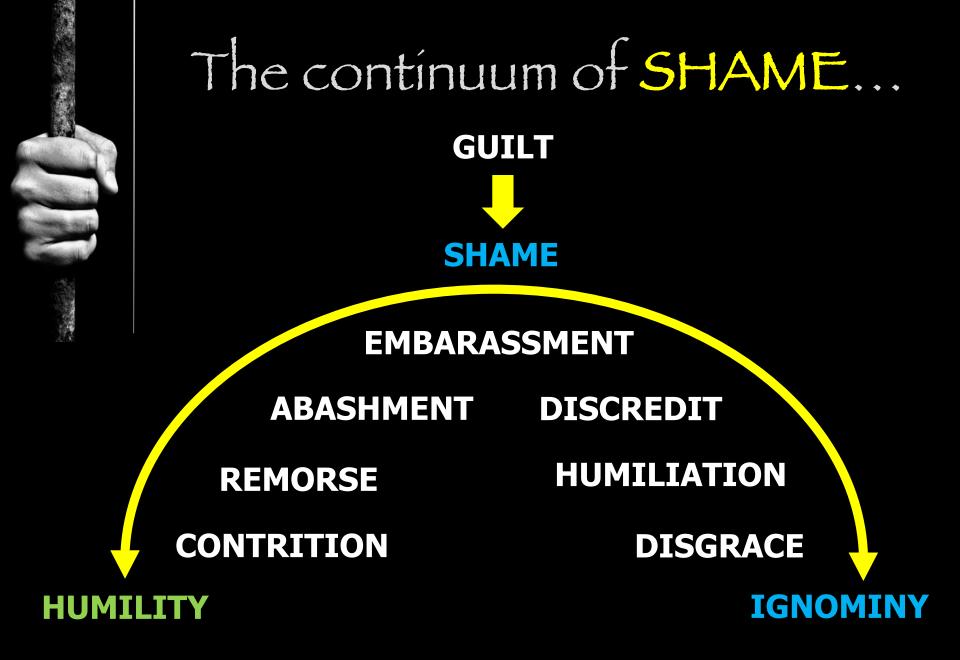
Leads to CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS Rom 5v5, Phil 1v20

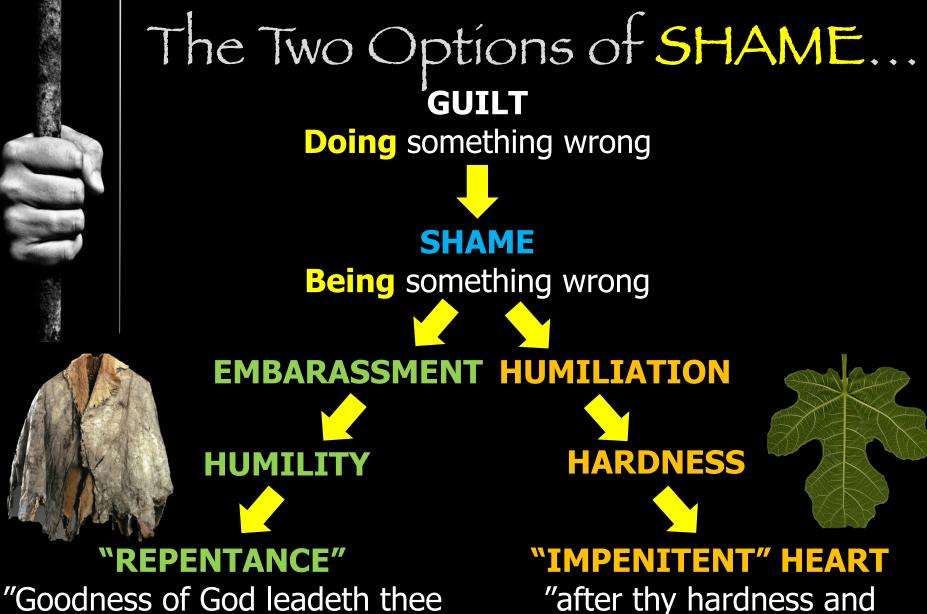
"The OBVIOUS Indication"

"Understanding then, that Sin, or the transgression of God's Law, evinced by doubts, fears, and shamefacedness, is the morbid principle of an evil conscience, what is the obvious indication to be fulfilled in it's removal? The answer is, blot out the sin, and the conscience of the patient will be cured. The morbid phenomena will disappear, and the "answer of a good conscience" will remain..."

Elpis Israel Bro John Thomas Pg 86

"They sought to cover their sin by a device of their own...but their consciences were not healed... They were as yet unacquainted with the great principle that without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sins..." Elpis Israel Bro John Thomas Pg 160





to repentance" Rom 2v4

FORGIVENESS

"after thy hardness and impenitent heart" Rom 2v5

PRIDE

God's purpose with SHAME...

"And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again." Num 12v14

"...and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed..."

"...nay, they were **not at all ashamed**, neither could they blush" "...thy lovers shall go into captivity: **surely then shalt thou be ashamed** and confounded for all thy wickedness." **Jeremiah 3v3,6v15,22v22**

"And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." II Thess 3v14

"...given place to FRIENDSHIP"

"But when a man knows himself to be forgiven of God, he knows that the sin which separated has been "covered", "cast away", "not reckoned": and with the sin goes the separation. In place of alienation is reconciliation: in place of enmity there is peace; wrath has given place to friendship.

Forgiveness in fact has changed the personal relationship between a man who is forgiven and God. That is something that evokes in each one the prophet's words: "Who is like unto thee that pardoneth iniquity?"

Delight in God's Law John Carter Page 115-116

"FREEDOM from the PAST ... "

"Forgiveness is a vital part of the disciple's experience of life in Christ. As a man learns that all the world is guilty before God, and that means each individual is guilty before God – as a man realizes this, not as just an intellectual assent but with a moral awareness of his real standing before his Maker – then forgiveness comes as a lifting of a load which is unbearable. The shame of the past goes with the conviction that God has cast our sins behind His back. But the effect of forgiveness is not only the sense of freedom from the past; it is a power for the future... If the old life was a bondage, the new life is the freedom of emancipated men, and the labour of the freed man is better in soul, in quality, in the joy of service than that of the slave..."

Delight in God's Law John Carter Page 120-121

"A PURIFYING experience..."

"There is something that repentance and forgiveness does effect, however. Even though the consequences of sin remain, a man's attitude is changed... A man humble and contrite, awake to the folly of sin, accepts the trials of life as a **purifying experience**... becoming thereby more than conqueror in that not only is sin overcome but its effects are made to serve as a training in righteousness.

The past can therefore abide, **not now with the power of habit holding in bondage**, but producing the humble and contrite heart. The memory of the guilt and the consciousness of forgiveness are part of the personality. And as the one disciplines and corrects, so the other encourages and guides in godliness..."

Delight in God's Law John Carter Page 123-124

The weight of GUILT...

"Of course, it is never possible entirely to forget the past, but no good comes from dwelling on it in a melancholic way so as to produce a woeful selfaccusing temper. To revive guilt in this way is like traversing again and again the pathway of sin and, in that journey, to relive and to some extent re-enjoy the very things which are hated.

To make light of sin is always wrong, but perhaps brooding over it in a morbid way is as bad. If somebody in good faith strives to forget past sins, he is doing what the God of forgiveness allows him to do. Since God forgets the sin which has been pardoned, why should the sinner revive it through remorse?" Words and weights Bro Dennis Gillett Page 57-58



Having NO SHAME = A characteristic of Divinity OUR FATHER "...wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their

God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11v16

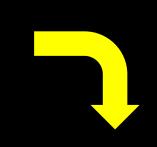
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

"...For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren," Hebrews 2v11 OURSELVES

"...And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming." **I John 2v28**

FREEDOM FROM and FREEDOM TO...





FREEDOM FROM SHAME Negative Finite Restrictive

FREEDOM TO FORGIVE Positive Infinite Boundless

"AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"...

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The FOUNDATION of FREEDOM

2 FREEDOM from 3 FREEDOM in the PAST the PRESENT SHAME CONCEALMENT

1



FREEDOM in the PRESENT CONCEALMENT





So how do we hide from Sin?





1

"they sewed figleaves together, and made themselves aprons"

MINIMIZE

KEEP IT SECRET Genesis 3v8

2

"hid themselves... amongst the trees of the garden"

DENY

MAKE EXCUSE Genesis 3v12

"The woman whom thou gavest...she gave me of the tree"

BLAME

"Hiding...Pretending..."

"It could be insisted that it is impossible to hide sin from God, but strangely, sinners often try. They argue that there were mitigating circumstances; that, after all, some good may come of it; viewed objectively it was not as bad as it seems; plenty of good people would understand, perhaps do the same; when all the facts are taken into account; human nature being what it is, no man is perfect; this was just the weak spot. This is guile.

It is pretending that some evil thing is not too bad. David knew that his guile had been a barrier to pardon... It keeps the prison shut – it is an iron bar, a lock with only one key. Strangely the key is in the hand of the prisoner." Words and weights Bro Dennis Gillett Page 43

So what does hiding do to us?

Woe unto them that **seek deep to hide** their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, **Who seeth us**? and **who knoweth us**? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay..." Isaiah 29v15

1 Tress

"I will not make mention of him...But his word was in my heart as a burning fire...I was weary with forbearing... I could not stay..." Jeremiah 20v9



2 J AUTHENTICITY

"For there is no man that doeth anything in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly" John 7v4



The PRINCIPLE of SECRETS...

II Sam 12v12 – "For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun"

Mark 4v22 – "For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad." Ecc 12v14 – "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil..."

Romans 2v16 – "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

ANYTHING SECRET WITH GOD WILL ALWAYS BE REVEALED

A "REVEALER of SECRETS"...

Dan 2v22 – "He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness..."

Dan 2v47 –

"Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets."



Deut 29v29 – "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever."

Amos 3v7 –

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

"...IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL..." I John1v5

Having NO SECRETS = A characteristic of Divinity

OUR FATHER

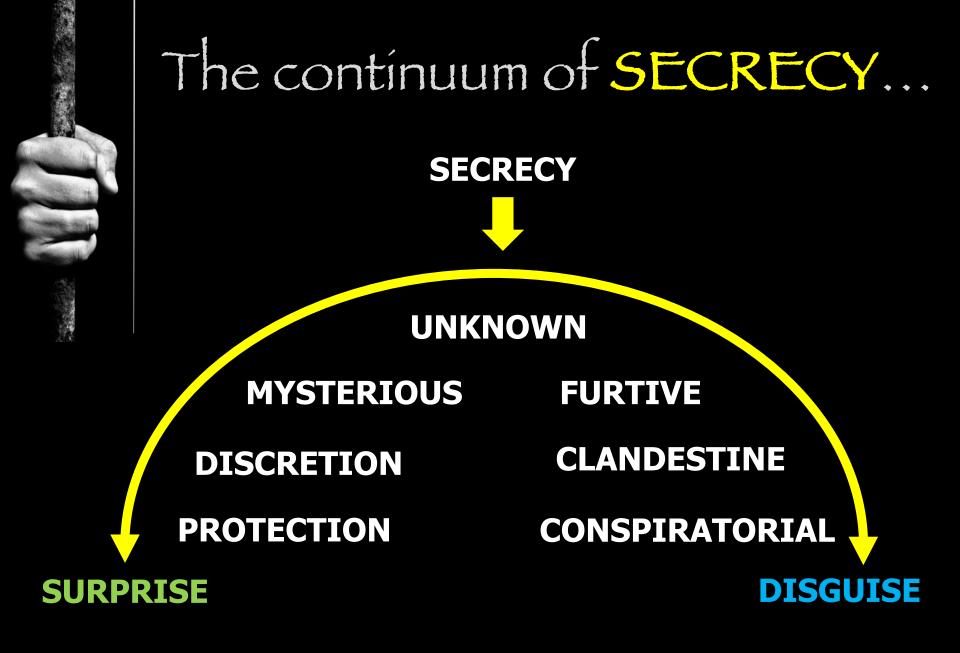
"...I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth... I the LORD...I declare things that are right" Isaiah 45v19

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

"...I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the Temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing" John 18v20

OURSELVES

"...Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" Matthew 5v14



"Every dark corner ... "

"The central thing is the denial of self. It is utterly radical. Denial of self is the inward thing. Taking up the cross daily is the external manifestation of the inward condition. To talk of it is not to realise it. To write about it is not to achieve it. The use of the word "daily" emphasizes that it is not just a theory but something that is real and practical... In practice it means giving unhindered access to the Master into every chamber and especially into every dark corner.

To think of that possibility might make us feel ashamed but at the same time it may do us good."

Genius of Discipleship Bro Dennis Gillett Page 2

"In the light..."

"You see all God's methods tend to humbling. He brings His people into circumstances which will reveal the secret forces of their own nature. He brings them into situations which will compel them to recognise that essentially they depend upon Him. If there is **secret rebellion**, for example, in a man's heart, that man under the providence of God will be led into a situation where the rebellion will be brought into the light...

...because in the light it can be recognised; in the light in can be repudiated, and in the light it can be abandoned for what it is. And so it is with impurity or cowardice or greed. God brings a man into such situations as will bring out of him what he is really like..."

Speaking to the Heart Bro Dennis Gillett Page 12

List of Character Flaws... "Cleanse thou me from secret faults..." Psalm 19v12

Lust Resentment Selfishness **Conceit/Pride Dishonesty Greed/Ambition** Impatience **Respect of persons Perfectionism/Intolerance Sloth/Procrastination** Fear Hypocrisy/Judging others Ingratitude/Entitlement **Desire for dominance**

Purity **Forgiveness Sacrifice Self abasement** Truth Contentment Patience Fairness **Acceptance of others** Diligence Trust Care **No expectations** Giving up control

"SURRENDER"

"Think of it this way. The life of discipleship is like a citadel. The disciple is the keeper; the King is seeking control. The aim of the King is complete sovereignty over the whole building. **He desires access to every room and every passage**, from the basement to the tower. He urges surrender but he will not compel. He entreats but will not drive. He will use every circumstance to encourage and make every obstacle a stepping-stone – if the keeper will cooperate.

The keeper has made a commitment to cooperate. In principle he has made the surrender; in practice he is reluctant to submit. Some rooms are locked against the King. Some doors are marked private. Some entrances say "Keep Out". The keeper says he must retain some independence. There are some things about which he must please himself; some areas where his preferences must prevail...

"The King is not a burglar. He knocks but will not trespass. He calls but will not coerce. The King is patient. Sometimes he has waited a human lifetime for doors to be opened. He knows the keeper well... The King and the keeper have a regular appointment to discuss advancing the surrender. The King is always there – the keeper too often is absent. He is so busy with things outside the citadel... Sometimes he is locked in the private apartments, by his own will and for his own purposes. He insists on retaining the master key. Sometimes he is irritated by the King's knocking, embarrassed when he thinks of the King's presence, glad that the latch is on his own side of the door. The keeper says that not all keeping is bad – there are some things he must keep for himself. The King says that the laws of his service are different; measured by the keeper's standards even paradoxical. **Those who surrender are set free.** Those who keep their life, lose it. Those who lose it for the King's sake, find it...

"The keeper regards this as fascinating theory. Sometimes he will discuss it at length. The philosophy makes him feel good. The reality makes him feel afraid. He is sustained in his reluctance by the suspicion that the King wants to make changes. The keeper does not like disturbances and the King is a disturber; he does not ask if it is convenient. The keeper says he intended the citadel to be a place of comfort and security. The King says he is more concerned about health than comfort... He says the keeper ought to be ready to be disturbed, because that is the way to be truly undisturbed... The King and the keeper both know that surrender is no easy thing. So the King persists. Notwithstanding the setbacks he holds the keeper close to the ideal. Gently he removes obstacles or places obstacles in the way – all to advance the cause. As the days go by the keeper will flinch less and trust more. Latches will be lifted and doors will be opened. One day the King's sovereignty will be unchallenged and the citadel will be under new management..." **Bro Dennis Gillett Genius of Discipleship Page 23-24**







SHAME













FORGIVENESS Genesis 3v21 FELLOWSHIP Genesis 3v24



"Put off all disguises..."

"Perhaps we think it is safe to open our eyes and ears wide to the doings of the world because we are strong enough... Yet on the searching occasion when we meet around the Table we confess not to strength but to weakness, self-will, waywardness and sin. As self-confessed transgressors before God, our powers of discrimination (in practice) between good and evil are suspect and not to be taxed unnecessarily...

The Table of the Lord is where all this confusion should be cleared away. Here we are urged to put off all disguises and cloudy thinking and to examine ourselves honestly. Here we must expose that from which Jesus is saving us – the Old Man with all his shifts..." At the Breaking of Bread Page 79-80



Felowship helps with hiding...

The other thing is to avoid isolation. Even though it may be hard, **get out among the faithful**. Talk to others, because there is a great deal of sympathy waiting for those with weights.

When James said "Confess your faults one to another" (James 5v16), it was not only good advice, it was the Holy Spirit's medicine for people with handicaps. They do say that a burden shared is a burden halved, and it could well be true, because, when the veneer is stripped away, we are all very much alike – that is, people with discrepancies – large or small" Words and weights Bro Dennis Gillett Page 70

FREEDOM FROM and FREEDOM TO...



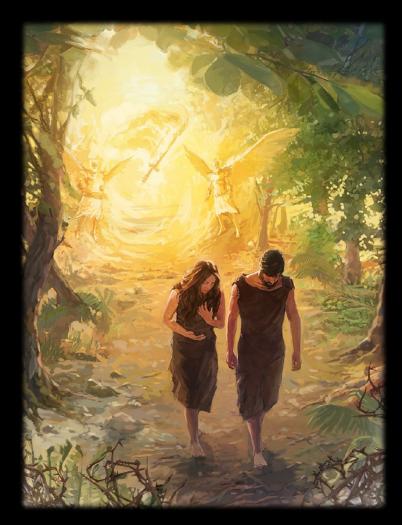
FREEDOM FROM CONCEALMENT Minimizing Denying Blaming

FREEDOM TO HIDE A MULTITUDE OF SINS Empathizing Saving

Converting

Have we "renounced the hidden things of dishonesty"?

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." **II Corinthians 4v2**



"AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"...

Enslaved to SIN...and its consequences...

When Adam and Eve sinned they became enslaved to the consequences of sin... "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Genesis 3v10

1 SHAME

Guilt for what they had done in the past

CONCEALMENT

2

A desire to hide in the **present** 3

FEAR

A fear for what God would do in the **future**



1

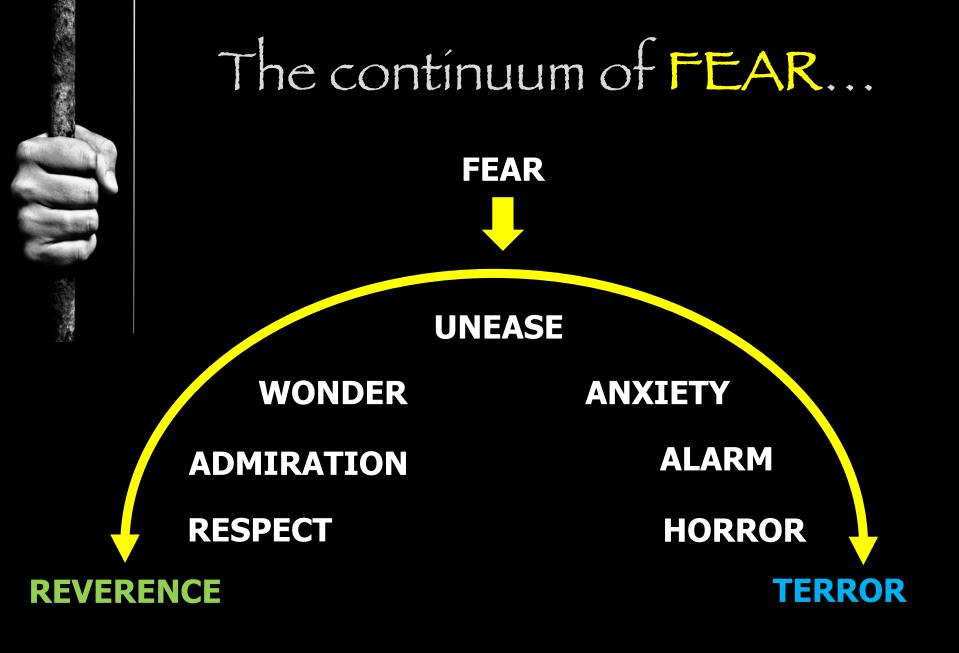


The FOUNDATION of FREEDOM

2FREEDOM from
the PAST
SHAME3FREEDOM in
the PRESENT
CONCEALMENT4FREEDOM for
the FUTURE
FEAR







"The spirit of fear"

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" II Tim 1v7

"This spirit of fear is not godly fear: it is not the mind of the Son of God who, when he prayed "was heard in that he feared" – or, as it may be rendered, "because of his devoutness"...

His was the fear which is the beginning and fruit of wisdom; this is a fear which is folly, the timidity of the half-hearted. The use of two distinct words avoids in the original the confusion liable to arise from the English... The Spirit of God brings to birth not cowards but men, fit to endure hardness. It is power, a dynamic; the power of God directed to the end of working salvation for and in everyone that believes..." A Sound Mind LG Sargent Page 9

"A dread of God's justice ... "

"So if fear of God is good and so profitable, why should it be a handicap? Because the fear which hinders is the wrong kind of fear. When probed and laid bare it is nearly always an awful dread which hangs upon the soul like a weight.

The writer has found that very often it is a dread of God's justice, a fear of the judgment seat of Christ, apprehension at the idea of interrogation by the one whose eyes are eyes of fire. It results, not in joy at the prospect of the Lord's coming, but in an awful kind of resignation. This state of mind, this condition of soul, makes running the race a penalty rather than an opportunity, almost a misery when it should be rousing and exciting..." Words and Weights Bro Denis Gillett Page 72

	The sheer number of fears			
	Of spide heights the da	or unlov rk	able	Of being exposed or found out
	Of God Himself	Of not living up to expectations		Of change
Of abandonment		"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Franklin D Roosevelt		Of rejection
Of uncertainty or ambiguity		Of death		Of failure
		OI UCAUI	Of crowds/being alone	
Of responsibilty		Of making decisions	Of pain	Of criticism

The 5 main fears...



2

FEAR OF HUMILIATION (Loss of reputation) Judges 6v27, I Sam 15v24, Matt 14v5, Gal 2v12



FEAR OF SEPARATION (Loss of relationship) Gen 26v7, Josh 22v24, Luke 19v21, John 9v22

3 FEAR OF DOMINATION (Loss of control) **I Sam 12v18, Esther 9v3, Matt 21v46, II Cor 11v3**

4 FEAR OF AFFLICTION (Loss of safety) Job 3v25, Ecc 12v5, Acts 23v10, Rev 2v10

5 FEAR OF EXTINCTION (Loss of existence) Gen 19v30, I Kings 17v13, Matt 10v28, Heb 10v27

The SOLUTIONS to SIN...





SHAME

















FEAR



FORGIVENESS Genesis 3v21 FELLOWSHIP Genesis 3v24 FAITH Genesis 3v15



FAITH versus FEAR...

Mark 4v40 – "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?..."

Luke 8v50 –

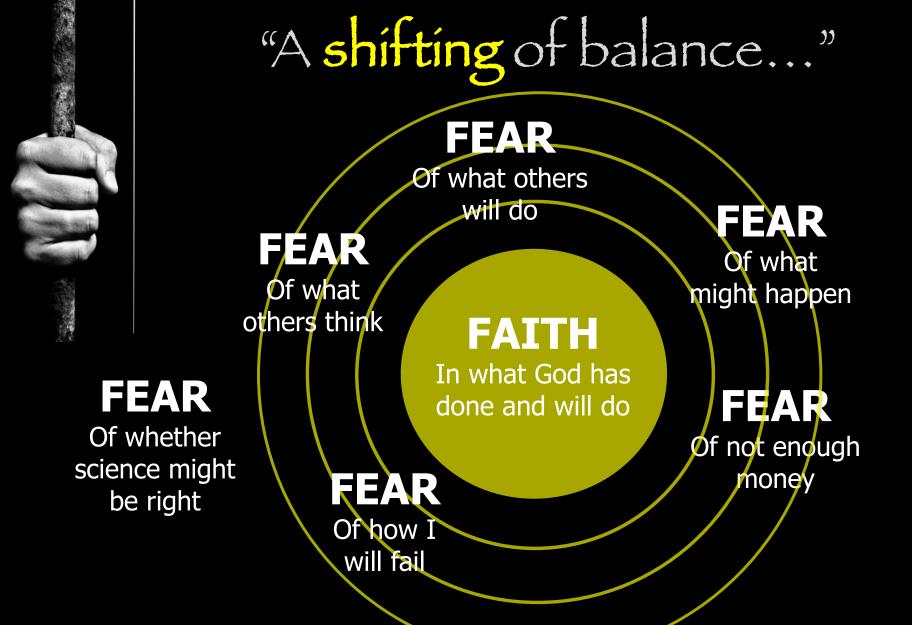
"But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole"

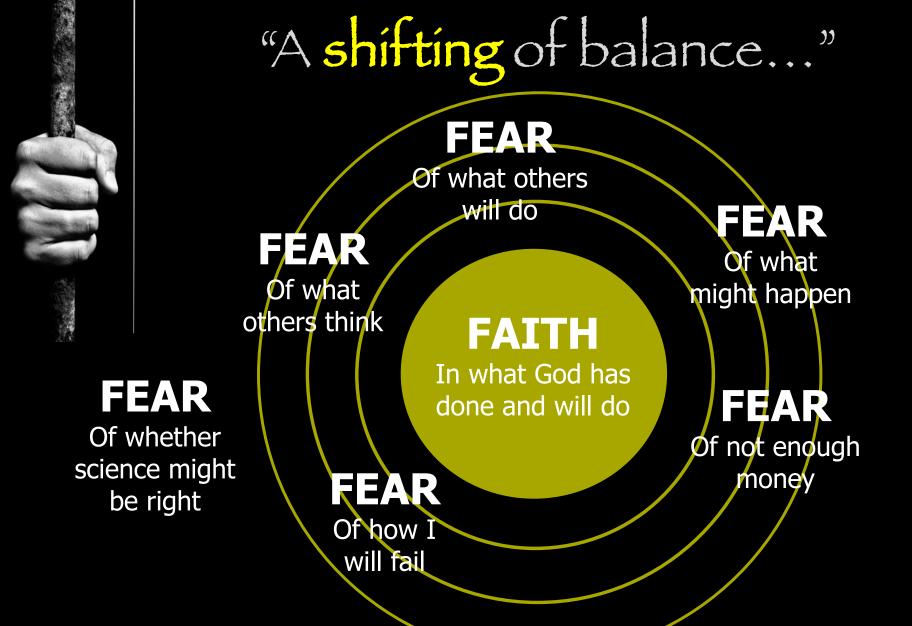
Matt 21v25-26 -

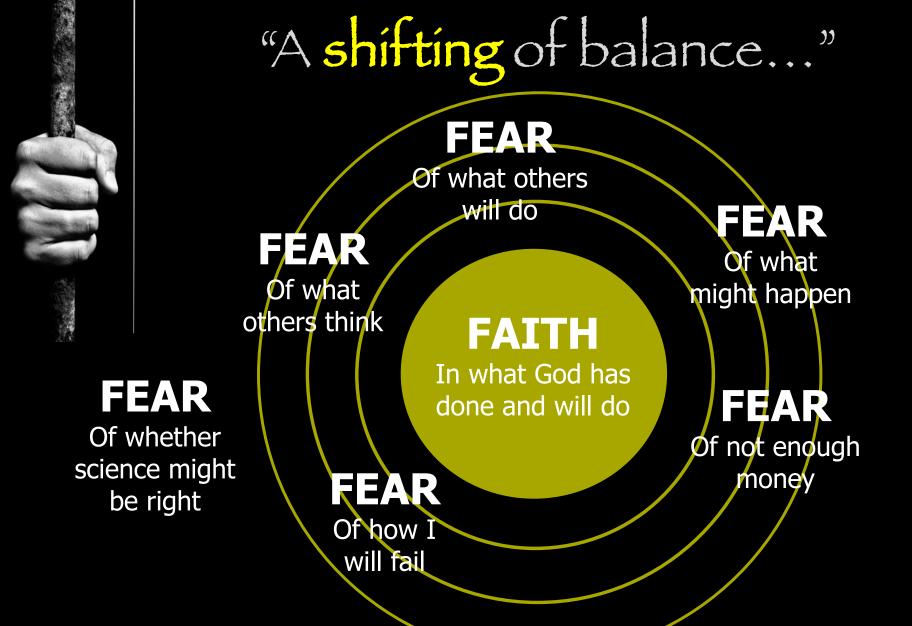
"And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye **not** then **believe** him? But if we say, Of men; we **fear** the people..." Hebrews 11v27 – "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible"

"A centre of faith"

If problems at the circumference of our faith come to occupy more thought than the certainties at the hub, there will be a shifting of balance... Times occur in the the life of individuals and communities when the greatest need is a return to the centre... Here then is the central fact of all: God's revelation culminating in Christ crucified and risen for the sake of men. Such a centre of faith can be like the hub of a wheel: the whole life can revolve round it and keep it in balance..." A Sound Mind LG Sargent Page 94









"A Sovereign remedy"

Men and women are troubled with fears that are not related either to present conditions or imminent future ones. Fears which are imaginary, yet real to the person affected...What can be done with these fears? Besides the **sovereign remedy** for fear... we can do much... They are largely impostors, and to expose them is to deprive them of their power. We must look at them boldly and frankly...sometimes to laugh at them... Fears should be met with knowledge of fact whenever possible; by self-control and reasoned thinking... Jesus in effect says that men can remove the fear of what men can do by the larger fear of God... all troubles, fears, anxieties are brought to God and are thus looked at in the light of His great power and His infinite care for His children..." **Delight in God's Law**

Bro John Carter Page 240-245

FAITH'S answer to FEAR...

FEAR OF HUMILIATION (Loss of reputation) FAITH'S ANSWER:

"Made himself of no reputation" Phil 2v5-9



FEAR OF SEPARATION (Loss of relationship) FAITH'S ANSWER:

"I will never leave you or forsake you" Heb 13v5-6



2

FEAR OF DOMINATION (Loss of control) FAITH'S ANSWER:

"My strength is made perfect in weakness" II Cor 12v9



FEAR OF AFFLICTION (Loss of safety)

FAITH'S ANSWER:

"Choosing rather to suffer affliction" Heb 11v25



FEAR OF EXTINCTION (Loss of existence) FAITH'S ANSWER:

"He who loses his life for my sake will find it" Matt 16v25

"The God-governed life ... "

"Therefore my brethren, ideally – and I am obliged to stress, ideally, it is a life in which all fear is checked, and every tremor is hushed to rest. In such a God-governed life, panic is outlawed. It illuminates every hour of sorrow, it soothes every agony, it lights with glory every dark cloud. In the day of frightfulness, the heart is fixed.

Fear may assault, but it cannot master. Sorrow may invade but it cannot destroy. A man may rise in the morning and read his newspaper and know that the things which are temporal are being shaken. He will go out to his duty and is not afraid because he believes that somehow he is preceded by the God of the universe – in some mysterious way he is being borne upon the wings of the eagle..."

Speaking to the Heart Bro Denis Gillett Page 25-26

Having NO FEAR = A characteristic of Divinity

OUR FATHER

"...God is love... there is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear..." I John 4v16-18

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

"...Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid..."

John 14v27

OURSELVES

"...For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." II Tim 1v7

FEAR = Story of the Bible...

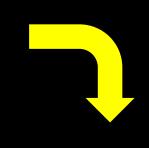
"And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Gen 3v10



"... But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." **Revelation 21v8**

FREEDOM FROM and FREEDOM TO...





FREEDOM FROM FEAR Torment Doubts Feelings

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE FAITH Peace Boldness Facts

"AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"...





Freedom from serving SIN...

CHRIST

"They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in **bondage** to any man: How sayest thou, Ye shall be made **free**? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the **servant of sin**" **John 8v34**

APOSTLE PAUL

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin...Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness...For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness..." Romans 6v17-20





The FOUNDATION of FREEDOM

FREEDOM from3FRthe PASTtheSHAMECON

2

1

B FREEDOM in the PRESENT CONCEALMENT

FREEDOM for the FUTURE FEAR

4



The WORLD remains enslaved to SIN and its consequences... "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Genesis 3v10



SHAME

"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" Jeremiah 6v15

CONCEALMENT

2

"The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not." Isaiah 3v9 3 FEAR

"There is no fear of God before their eyes" Romans 3v18



Going back to EGYPT...

"...Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots..." Exodus 16v3

"...And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and... said...Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!" Numbers 14v2

"...Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me... That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!" Isaiah 30v1-2

"...But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land... we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:" Jeremiah 42v13-14

Returning to EGYPT and SIN... 1 WE BEGIN TO FORGET

"Then thy heart be lifted up... thou **forget** the LORD... which brought thee out of... the house of **bondage**" **Exod 13v3,14, Deut 6v12,8v14, Neh 9v17**

2 WE START TO DESIRE

"But now... how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye **desire** again to be in **bondage**?" **Gal 4v9**

3 WE BECOME ENTANGLED

"Stand fast... in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free... be not **entangled** again with the yoke of **bondage**." **Gal 5v1**

4 WE ARE OVERCOME

"...For of whom a man is **overcome**, of the same is he brought in **bondage**." **II Peter 2v19**

1 The TENSION of FREEDOM

PHYSICAL FREEDOM JORDAN

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" Romans 8v21

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SLAVERY

RED SEA

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" Romans 8v2

SPIRITUAL

FREEDOM



"The tension remains ... "

"The tension remains: the earthly tabernacles of our mortal bodies and our limited faith make our freedom, in practice, incomplete.
Soon it will be full and for that the whole creation waits: "the manifestation... of the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8v17,21)

Then with strength never failing, minds never tiring, attention never flagging, vision never doubting, hearts never growing cold, we shall be **free from time itself** and "shall mount up with wings as eagles; run and not be weary...

walk and not faint..."

Freedom in Christ Bro Harry A Twelves Page 100

The GRAPH of FREEDOM

RED SEA

PHYSICAL FREEDOM JORDAN

FAMILY

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SLAVERY

FORCED LABOUR

FREEMEN

SPIRITUAL

FREEDOM

FREEDOM - and its twin...

"Freedom is in danger of degenerating into mere arbitrariness unless it is lived in terms of responsibleness. That is why I recommend that the Statue of Liberty on the East Coast be supplemented by a Statue of Responsibility on the West Coast." Viktor E. Frankl 1905-1997





FREEDOM = Seeking others...

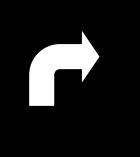
Seek not to be RIGHT Being right is about self...



Seek rather to be RIGHTEOUS Being righteous is about others...

"We get to be right or we get to be FREE..."

The FREEDOM to SERVE



THE SOLUTION....

"But by love **serve** one another..." Galatians 5v13



"Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" Galatians 5v1 LEGALIST Has no FREEDOM FROM... "For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh..." Galatians 5v13 LIBERALIST Has no FREEDOM TO...

"Found in his service ... "

"Our freedom in Christ does not mean that we can think what we like, say what we like, or do what we like - unless we like what God likes. To equate our likes with His is our great struggle, as it was the Son's – "Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt". Our freedom is real but it is found in his service. That would be true even if we each lived in isolation from all human contacts: whether we lived or died we should be the Lord's. Living as we do in communities, with most of our actions affecting others, we enjoy only the freedom to help, not to retard, their spiritual progress. Rightly viewed, our freedom is not thereby limited: it is "the perfect law of liberty - the royal law: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (James 1v25,2v8). What God likes and what edifies our brother, we are free to think and say and do, "for even Christ pleased not himself" (Rom 15v3)." Freedom in Christ Bro Harry A Twelves Page 97-98

FREEDOM to be FAMILY...

Exod 4v22 –

"And thou shalt say unto Pharoah... Israel is my son, even my firstborn, and I say unto thee, Let my son go that he may serve me"

Romans 8v21–

"Because the creature itself shall be be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God"

Galatians 4v3-5 -

"Even so we... were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son... that we might receive the adoption of sons"

Hebrews 2v13-15 -

"Behold I and the children which God hath given me... deliver them who... were all their lifetime subject to bondage... made **like unto his brethren**"

FREEDOM = Story of the Bible...

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden, thou mayest **freely** eat..." **Genesis 2v16**



"...And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely..." Revelation 22v17

"AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"...

"By the skin of our teeth?"

"The contemplation of the joy set before us is enhanced by the thought that it will be bestowed in no grudging spirit... "Fear not little flock", says Christ to his disciples, "for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom" What encouragement to greater endeavor do these gracious words supply! Do we sometimes think, even whilst we allow the possibility of success in the day of Christ, of being grudgingly admitted to the Kingdom "by the skin of our teeth"? Peter has a higher conception of the Divine grace, and lifts our earthbound thoughts to a loftier plane: "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ". There is no limit to God's grace: no suggestion of frugality or economy: those limitations belong to men, not to the Creator of heaven and earth" **Meditations FW Turner Page 25-26**