**Studies in the Book of Galatians IV:** **Set Free for Life**

**(Galatians 5:1-13)**

***Pastor Mike Ngui***

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”(Galatians 5:1-13)

# Introduction

Street rat Annie was an orphan. She lived on the streets of London. She never had a good meal. She would sleep on the streets or under the bridge. She would peep on the window and see a perfect family. Good food, nice room and clothes. They each had a bedroom all to themselves. She wished she was a part of the family. One day, she was Invited to live together with the owner.



**BIG IDEA**

**CHRIST SET US FREE TO TRULY LIVE AND LOVE.**

# Christ Set Us Free for Freedom (Galatians 5:1a)



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1a)

Christ has set us free to live a free life. There are people who are free outside but actually not free. God has intended for us to live free

This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. (Galatians 5:1)

There is not much of a life if we are not free. Christ love is not discounted, pre-loved, chopped. God paid for it all. You do not need to do anything to achieve his love. Christ’s love is not a religion where you need to attend church, go cell groups and attend a mission trip.



The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

You cannot earn or redeem eternal life. Sin feels so good and cool. We envy those who sin. It looks like a Christian life is hard. We seem to think that God brought us out of slavery just as Moses brought the Israelites out in the wilderness but it is God’s intention for us to pass the wilderness and reach the promised land to live a life of freedom.

We must not look at Christianity as being free from the slavery of sin and becoming a slave of religion and morality that we must go to church, pay our tithes, pray and fast for our salvation. Christ never meant for us to live a life of slavery but freedom.

# We must stand firm to live free

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1a)

Most martial arts teach the horse stance. The horse stance is the most boring stance to practice. In powerlifting, the core muscles are the most important muscles to train before the biceps and the triceps. These are the not the most exciting practices of the sport but it is very crucial indeed.

We are justified by the grace of God. Sometimes we do things “just in case”. We try to hedge our way out of things. A hedge is an investment position intended to offset potential losses or gains that may be incurred by a companion investment. In simple language, a hedge is a risk management technique used to reduce any substantial losses or gains suffered by an individual or an organization.

When we hedge, we lose sight of what is important. There is no hedging in the Gospel of Christ.

When Annie was invited by the owner of the house, the servants got jealous. They asked Annie to start as a servant and work her way to her own room upstairs. They are scared of their master and often hides from him. We are justified by faith. We do not have to hedge ourselves.

We have to live resolutely on the truth of the gospel. This means that we have been made right before God. We are God’ s adopted children because of the work of Jesus is sufficient in every way.

We are free but we still live in sin. We are like living in a jail with the doors wide open.

Teaching scripture to live free. Change your inner beliefs. Do not end up sitting inside a prison when the door is open.

# We are called to live humbly. (Galatians 5:5,13)

For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. (Galatians 5:5)

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh rather, serve one another humbly in love. (Galatians 5:13)

Hope is not wishing for something. Hope is looking forward to the larger expectation for the promise of God’s word that is evidently true.

a. We live right expressing faith

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6)

b. We live right expressing faith through love

We live as if the only thing that counts Is that faith expresses itself through

baptism, church, and speaking in tongues. We express faith through love.

c. We express love in humble service

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh rather, serve one another humbly in love. (Galatians 5:13)

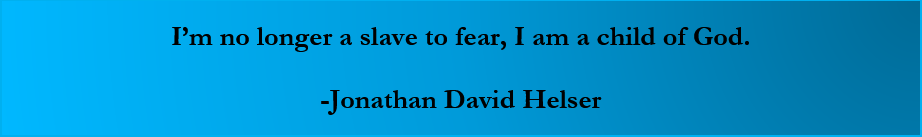
Use your freedom in Christ to serve one another. DO what you are meant to do.

Annie gets her room upstairs but she does not bathe or change her clothes. She lives her old life in her new home. Annie can choose this life.

# Conclusion

Annie gets her room upstairs. She throws out her old clothes and puts on the new ones her father has for her. She embraces living in the house her father has prepared and not on the streets. She learns the new ways of living at home.

God’s grace is unconditional. You have the right to be free.



Sermon summary by Abbey Thangiah