

LESSON 54 - FINDING FREEDOM

How Can You Find Total Freedom From _____? (12 Steps)

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Is it possible to be totally free? Yes! This lesson you'll learn the 12 steps to become free from any type of addiction, sin, temptation, or vice. Jesus said in John 8:36, "*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*" It began on the cross where Jesus, the Son of God, died for your sins. His last words before dying were: "*It is finished.*" (John 19:30) He defeated every enemy: sin, death, demons, curses, Hell. He sets us free from the Penalty, Presence, and Power of sin. In Jesus you're free from the *Penalty* of sin. He paid for it; you don't have to. In Jesus you're also free of the *Presence* of sin. Galatians 5:1 says, "*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*" If you commit a sin or make a mistake, Jesus is at God's right hand interceding for you and His righteousness is covering you (Romans 8:34). Romans 6:14 (NLT) says, "*Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.*" In Jesus you're also free from the *Power* of sin. The Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome every sinful temptation and be filled to the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:16-20). 1 Peter 2:16 encourages: "*Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.*" Galatians 5:13 (NLT) says, "*For you have been called to live in freedom... But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.*" Use the following modified [Celebrate Recovery 12 Steps](#)® to pursue freedom and godliness in every area of your life.

Step #1. ADMIT Your Limitations. *Admit that you're powerless over your addictions and compulsive behaviors, and your life has become unmanageable.* Romans 7:18 says, "*For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*" The first and most crucial step to freedom is recognizing and admitting that you have a problem. Many people are unwilling to do this and won't, until they hit rock bottom. Common problems the world often recognizes are drugs, alcohol, and other addictions. These are obvious, we simply need to be humble enough to admit we have a problem and can't fix ourselves. Other issues may not seem like a problem to the world (because it's sinful) but to God they are! Your church, the Bible, or the Holy Spirit may be convicting you of an area of your life still sinful, unhealthy, broken, or unbalanced where you need deliverance or healing, or of things for you to remove or reprioritize. Pursue freedom and godliness. If God's Word says something is sinful, or God reveals that it's become an idol for you, He's right. Stop making excuses to stay in bondage! Stop lying to yourself, rationalizing that it's normal, it's just the flesh, or that everyone else struggles too. Be self-aware, open your eyes, and see things as they really are. Admit your bondage and limitations to God.

Step #2. BELIEVE in God. *Believe that God is greater than you and that He could restore you to sanity.* Philippians 2:13 says, "*For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*" God doesn't expect you to free yourself. He wants you to trust Him to free you, His way, for His

glory. God delivers us, not to live for ourselves but as Exodus 7:16 says, so *that we may worship Him*.

Step #3. SURRENDER to God. *Make a decision to turn your life and your will over to the care of God.* Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Set aside your sin and selfishness, lay your life down and dedicate it to Him. Romans 6:13 says, *“Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather... offer every part of yourself to him [God] as an instrument of righteousness.”*

Step #4. EXAMINE Yourself. *Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of yourself.* Go deep examining the fruit of your life, and be brutally honest with what you find. LAM. 3:40; 2 COR. 13:5; PS. 139:24

Step #5. CONFESS to God. *Admit to God, to yourself, and to another follower of Jesus, the exact nature of your wrongs.* What is hidden in the dark must be brought to the light. The confession of your mouth affirms the convictions of your heart (Romans 10:9-11). 1 JOHN 1:8-10; JAMES 5:16; LEVITICUS 5:5

Step #6. REPENT to God. *Become entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.* Be resolute never to return to a life of sin or bondage again. Determine that you will glorify God with your life, become more like Jesus, and let the Holy Spirit transform you. ROM. 12:1-3; 1 THES. 5:23-24; ACTS 3:19-20;

Step #7. PLEAD to God. *Humbly ask Him to remove all your shortcomings.* James 4:8-10 says, *“Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*

Step #8. FORGIVE and BLESS. *Make a list of all persons you have harmed and become willing to make amends to them all.* As someone forgiven by God, forgive everyone who has harmed you. Entrust them to God to judge fairly and pray they would come to know Jesus. Release all bitterness, giving your wounds to God to heal them. Be merciful, blessing and living at peace with everyone. Love others as you love yourself. Luke 6:31 says, *“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”* MATT. 18:21-35; ROM. 12:14-21

Step #9. Pursue RECONCILIATION. *Make direct amends to all people you've harmed whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.* Matthew 5:23-24 says, *“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”* ROM. 12:18, 15:2

Step #10. Be CONFESSIONAL. *Continue to take personal inventory and when you're wrong, promptly admit it.* Since you're delivered and healed by God's grace alone, be humble, and pursue sanctification and confession. Corinthians 10:12 says, *“If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!”*

Step #11. DEVELOP INTIMACY with God. *Seek through prayer and meditation to improve your conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for you, and power to carry that out.* James 4:7-8 says, *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.”* Pursue intimacy with God daily and prioritize first this relationship.

Step #12. WITNESS Your Testimony. *Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, carry this message to others and practice these principles in all your affairs.* Live out and persist in your victory. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, *“You will be my witnesses.”* Use your testimony to help others. GALATIANS 6:1

Let's pray. God, please deliver me from _____. Help me Admit, Believe, Surrender, Examine, Confess, Repent, Plead, Forgive, Bless, Reconcile, Have Intimacy, and Be Your Witness. In Jesus' name. Amen.