

Set Free Update

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Ministries**



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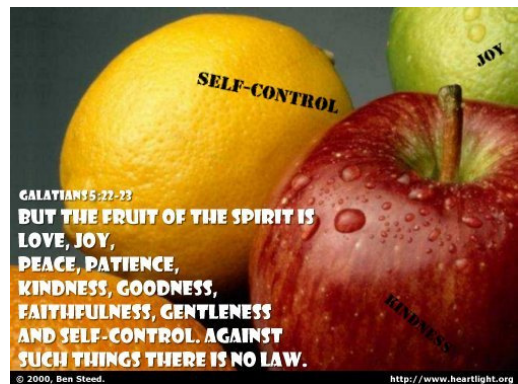
---YOUR WORD IS TRUTH (JOHN 17:17).

As an encourager in Freedom in Christ ministry, it is always exciting for me to see the truth of Scripture validated. The Scriptures speak to both the cause and the solution of the issues that come up in a freedom appointment. Here is one rather dramatic example:

The man was probably in his mid forties. He came requesting a freedom appointment at the recommendation of a friend who had gone through his own appointment in the past. "I'm having a real problem with anger," he said. "My anger is affecting all of my relationships and is about to destroy my marriage. I don't know what to do."

When we reached the forgiveness portion of the seven steps, there were quite a number of individuals he needed to forgive. One situation in particular stood out as the major factor in his problem with anger. There was one person who had done him a great injustice and extending forgiveness to this person was not something he "felt like doing." The injustice was so grievous that he spoke of wanting to murder this individual. For over twenty years he had carried this murderous rage in his heart.

Ephesians 4:26, 27 tell us we give the enemy a foothold in our lives if we do not resolve our anger in a timely manner. Hebrews 12:15 says we forfeit the grace of God when we allow a bitter root to grow in our hearts. The Scriptures had proven true in this man's life. When confronted with the choice to forgive, the eyes changed and the voice became threatening as a manifestation of evil occurred. When the manifesting spirit was asked if he wished to challenge the authority of the Lord Jesus, the eyes lowered, the voice became subdued and the answer was "no." The man was set free from his anger that day after making the hard core choice to forgive. The truth of 1 John 3:8 also proved true: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." One falls in love with Jesus at the realization of this truth!



The lesson for us is to obey the injunction of Ephesians 4:31 -" Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger---" and let the fruit of the spirit of Jesus be evident in our lives.

by Arnie Dykstra

LIVING DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

The Living Discipleship Conference was held on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at Fairhaven Ministries in Hudsonville, Michigan. Although there were several obstacles that were put in our path, including illness of our conference coordinator, Ruth Theis, we had about 50 attendees who were blessed with words of encouragement, testimonies, and instruction throughout the day. The conference started out with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., then a worship celebration with music led by Kris Ponstein, followed by an overview of Set Free Ministries by Dean Vander Mey, Executive Director of SFM.

Dr. Jeff Boersma, pastor of *On the House Church* in Muskegon, Michigan, gave his personal testimony entitled "My Life in Christ." He shared how the freedom ministry impacted his life personally as well as his pastoral ministry. He openly acknowledged that he lived much of his life as a follower of Christ without understanding how being in Christ meets our needs or how to win the battle for our mind, body, and soul. Satan tempted him in many ways throughout his college years and afterwards as a pastor. He also spoke about being set free from pain and the sins of pride and alcoholism through Jesus Christ. He now ministers to others, sharing with those who are in bondage to sin the freedom found in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and abiding in Christ.

Dr. Jeff Stam, the founder of Set Free Ministries, and current pastor of Friendship Chapel in Jenison, Michigan, spoke on "Windows to Reality." He explained how our worldview is intricately woven into our beliefs, actions, and reactions, and how an incorrect or incomplete worldview of God and who we are prevents us from recognizing and effectively fighting the warfare against our enemy. He described how we are influenced by the culture we live in, whether it be witchcraft, occults, cult or false religious teachings, and gave practical ways we should live out our faith in the midst of a world that denies that Jesus Christ is Lord.

After lunch, Mr. Arnie Dykstra, a calling pastor for several years at Sunshine Community Church, spoke on "Foundational Principles." Although now retired, he has been involved in discipleship ministry for the past 10 years, and spends much of his time counseling people and providing guidance to those who are hurting, and praying for those in need. He focused on finding our personal freedom in Christ and then helping others do the same, using the tools of Steps to Freedom in Christ. He also gave practical guidelines for establishing a freedom ministry in your church.

Following the afternoon break, the remainder of the time was spent on application of the principles addressed by the speakers, led by a panel of five: Jeff Boersma, Arnie Dykstra, Jeff Stam, Paul Tameling, and Dean Vander Mey. There was opportunity for questions from those who were in attendance, and the open forum provided a means of discussion of the various needs, difficulties, and solutions found in God's Word.

We would welcome any comments or suggestions you might have for future conferences.

by Elaine Keyzer