

January 14, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Rm. 8:1-2 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit Who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (NIV)*

Incarceration. This word is numbing to say the least. I can't imagine the feeling of having every freedom you have stripped away. Many are incarcerated because of choices they have made. Other, because of evil rulers. I want to tell you just a brief story of a man named Watchman Nee. Born in China, he grew up knowing that he had been given to the LORD by his parents. An incredibly intelligent young man, he graduated the top of his class. He had hopes and visions of great success. And then the LORD stepped in. Watchman was stricken with the love of God and gave himself completely to God and His work. In communist China, Christians were not held in high esteem, and many were killed or put in prison. In 1952, He was arrested and thrown into a tiny prison cell, not even large enough for him to lie down. There was no furniture or facilities. Just a concrete square with a small drain for his use and one small bowl of weakened soup per day. For twenty years, he was incarcerated for his preaching and teaching of the gospel. He died in that same cell on May 30, 1972.

Although he was physically incarcerated, he was spiritually emancipated by the LORD. For those twenty, tenuous years, he did nothing but send messages out to other Christians to continue to live for Christ. These messages of hope and freedom are found in some of the most amazing books I've ever read. *The Glorious Church, The Spiritual Man, and The Overcoming Life* are just a few of the ones that have made such an impact in my life. Even though he was in prison, he would tell you that he had never felt freer than he was in the presence of the LORD. Today's passage also came from someone who was familiar with incarceration. Paul also knew that what this world could do to him had no power over what the LORD was doing through him. This is a huge key into living the life of freedom in Christ. Paul proclaims that through Christ, the law of the Spirit Who gives life has also set us free from the law of sin and death! Can I get an AMEN?

Dear LORD, You and You alone have truly given us freedom and liberty. No matter what circumstances we may face in this world, our freedom is found in Your Spirit. And if You have set us free, we are free indeed! In Jesus Name, Amen