

## **Freedom!** **Part II; July 11, 2010**

### **“Be Free...Live Free!”**

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. <sup>6</sup>The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. <sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. <sup>8</sup>Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. <sup>9</sup>Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." — Acts 12:5-11 (NIV)

**God wants us to embrace freedom as a LIFESTYLE,  
not just as an EXPERIENCE!**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **LIVE** as children of light. — Ephesians 5:8 (NIV)

## **What does it take to LIVE in freedom?**

**It takes deciding to live God's way  
instead of our way!**

“There is a path before each person that seems right, **but it ends in death.**”  
— Proverbs 16:25 (NLT)

**It takes refusing to be paralyzed by fear or shame!**

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? **Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own?** No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.  
— Romans 8:31-34 (NLT)

**It takes being willing to walk away  
from toxic people and toxic places!**

“If you want to be my disciple, **you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life.** Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.”  
— Luke 14:26 (NLT)

**It takes trusting God to the end!**

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, **will continue his work until it is finally finished...**”  
— Philippians 1:6 (NLT)