

*“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32*

A while ago, I was desperately seeking freedom in a particular area of my life. I had been set free from so many strongholds but something just kept lingering in the area of fear. I was frustrated and fed up and I told the Lord I wanted free no matter what it took. It had ruled me far too long. I woke up early one morning and He directed me to John 8:31-32. I remember thinking rather arrogantly, “Yes Lord. I know this scripture. I can even quote it.” I’m quite sure He got a kick out of that remark but in His goodness, Holy Spirit began to speak to me. He instructed me to dig into this passage and journal what He was about to reveal. It was kind of strange, but the first thing He did was to show me this verse in reverse order. *Freedom* was the goal. It was what I was longing for and in order to be *free* I had to know *truth*. In order to know truth I had to *abide* in His word. Sounds pretty simple, doesn’t it? Another thing He reminded me of was that a sweet man of God once told me to study scripture by looking at the opposite of what it actually says so that we can see how the enemy is at work in the situation. The opposite of this verse would read something like this: ‘If you rush through my word, you are not my disciple (student). You will not know the truth...you’ll know lies and the lies will make you slaves...or put you in bondage.’ When I looked at the scripture this way, I realized that’s exactly what was happening in my life. I was certainly in bondage to the lies and fear even though I had repeatedly prayed for deliverance in this area. Waves of revelation literally began to pour over me. The whole weight of this scripture rested on the word ‘abide’. It became very clear that I had not been abiding in the Word of God. I was reading it but I wasn’t abiding in it. I repented and asked Him to teach me.

The word ‘abide’ means to wait; to bear patiently; to continue in a place; to live there. If I wanted to be free, I had to get a revelation of how to do this. Holy Spirit often speaks to me in the events of everyday life and what He chooses to use is sometimes humorous. This one was no different. I asked Him to show me what it meant to abide and he immediately gave me a picture of my two dogs. They both love meat scraps. They don’t get them often but, oh how they love them. When I take out the scraps of meat, Bailey will take her scraps to the corner of the yard, guard them with her life and will be in that corner still enjoying her scraps an hour later. Casey, on the other hand, swallows hers whole. There is absolutely no way she can possibly taste them!! I laugh at her but it really is sad. She loves them and waits so long to get them but she gobbles them up before she has time to enjoy the very thing she’s craving. God said, “You are a lot like Casey. You feed on My Word the way she eats her scraps.”

Another illustration immediately came to my mind. I got a picture of a fast food drive up window. I had been guilty of treating God like He’s the guy in the window. I yell out my order, drive up and get the sack, and off I go choking down the meal as I rush away. Likewise, how often do we wake up, call out our requests for the day, gobble up a daily devotional and out the door we go with a cup of coffee in hand and never think about what we just read? He doesn’t work at a fast food place. Scripture says He invites us to a banqueting table. He calls us to abide...visit over dinner...savor the flavor of the Word He is serving.

Enjoy the meal. Dine with the King. When I truly began to get a revelation of this word 'abide', I began to experience greater freedom daily. It was like medicine to my wounds.

What is your situation? What areas do you need a greater measure of freedom in? He gives us the formula. He can't lie so this formula will never fail. Ask Holy Spirit for the Word that you need for this season of your life and then ask that the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation (that's Holy Spirit, too!) rest upon you and implant the Word deep within your being.

The Word of the Lord isn't limited to just a written word. It can be a spoken word, as well. I remember years ago hearing the words "RISE UP" over and over again. It took me a while to realize it was Holy Spirit talking to me. You see, I didn't recognize these words as being from the Lord because they didn't have a scripture reference attached to them. Yet, it was powerful and definitely a message for me from God that led to significant breakthrough in my life. When you sincerely ask Him, I promise you won't be denied. Once you have received the Word, stay there...meditate on it...remain, live there until it becomes a revelation for you. A revelation simply means it has moved from your head to your heart. You see, He says 'you will KNOW the truth'. That word 'know' is not talking about head knowledge or memorizing the scripture. It means that you perceive it, you feel it, and you become acquainted with it...you believe it more strongly than you do your circumstances. Once that happens, freedom comes. When you are standing securely on that Word, the Lord will release you to move on to the next phase of the journey...a new Word...knowing that a greater measure of truth has been established in you. Oh, the enemy may come at you again in whatever area you are dealing with, but because you have *experienced* and savored that Word in such a tangible way, you are on solid ground and can defeat the lies with the truth you know. You truly will know the truth and the truth will make you free!