

Jesus Said...

"If the Son shall make you free..."

All of God's creation wants to be free. The

natural desire of man and animals alike is not one

of bondage. We have all seen caged animals in a

zoo. They pace back and forth restlessly and can

even sometimes see a path worn into the concrete

by their relentless pacing. This must be a

bondage of the worst kind for animals.

For man, one would think that being chained

or locked in a prison cell would be the worst ex-

perience. Many of us wonder how anyone could

survive solitary confinement. This type of bond-

age sounds unbearable; however, there is a type

of bondage more powerful and permanent than

even that of the physical body and that is the

bondage of the *soul and spirit*.

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden

of Eden, the whole earth has been caught in the

bondage of Satan, the devil. It was at this time

that the "fallen nature of man" came into being

Paul says that we know that the whole creation

groans and travails in pain, together. The imbalance of earth and nature is evidenced in the repeated occurrence of tornadoes, hurricanes, earth-

IT IS NECESSARY—

For me to be converted.

For me to have heart relation, and fellowship

with God.

For me to live a life of utter integrity and

righteousness.

For me to support the church of God by my

presence and influence and money.

For me to seek in a positive way the salvation of

my fellowmen.

For me to be Christian in my attitudes toward

the unlovely, the unkind, and those who

wrong me.

For me to give my testimony for God in public

and in private, by word and by act.

For me to have a clean heart, which involves the

"holiness without which no man shall see the

Lord."

When you have made the greatest and most

important choice of your life—taking Jesus as

your Lord and receiving forgiveness for your

sins—I would be happy to hear from you. If you

have any questions about being born again, or if

you need any Gospel help, please feel free to

contact the person whose name appears below.

—Raymond P. Brunk

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to be faithful to what He wants you to do.

As He comes into your life and heart by the

Holy Spirit, you will be set free from the bond-

ages of your sins. You will no longer serve the

devil. Remember, the devil pays wages—those

wages are spiritual death and eternal separation

from God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the

gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our

Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

Without the knowledge of God, man has no

way of becoming released from his bondage of ig-

norance. We are really free when we know that

our lives is broken.

We are free from being a habitual sinner. The

sinner is always uncomfortable. He seems to en-

joy the sins that he commits, but later his con-

science bothers him and he is miserable. Often,

he will get involved in the very same sin again. It

is a habit, and he cannot help himself.

We are set free from the anguish of guilt and

the feeling of condemnation for past sins. "If we

confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive

us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteous-

ness" (1 John 1:9). The blood of Jesus Christ

cleanses us from all sin.

We are free from the consequences of not know-

ing what sin is. The Holy Spirit will tell us when

we sin as Christians. He will guide us into all truth,

and we are free to live above sin. We can have vic-

tory, knowing that we are in right standing before

God because of the blood of Jesus.

We are free to bear the fruit of the Spirit. "But

the fruit of the Spirit is love, peace, longsuf-

fering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, tem-

perance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22,

23).

We are free to have:

—forgiveness for our sins.

—access to God at all times.

"We are free to live in the glorious liberty God

gives us as his children" (Rom. 8:21).

"If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free

indeed!" — Really free!