

## ***The Cost of Freedom***

Having accepted the sacrifice of Jesus' Calvary experience and being Born Again by His blood, the one thing that we are able to openly say is that we are now free beings.

Living free is something that most people [especially those with no knowledge of God] cannot grasp as most times unknowingly they remain in bondage to various sins, behavioral patterns, and even people that are actually hindering their spiritual growth and therefore stopping their effectiveness in the Kingdom of God.

The one important principle about freedom is that "*Freedom is not free.*" Someone paid a price so we can have the opportunity to walk without the things that bind us and keeping us from excelling.

This sacrifice is the cost that freedom incurs as we endeavor to live in a manner that is as free from hurt, pain, discouragement and fear as we can be. As we'll see, it not only cost something to get free, but there's a price to pay [often a sacrifice] if we're going to remain free.

Throughout world history, we had people fighting to be free from the oppression of nations that appeared more powerful than they. This is especially evident when the children of Israel served 430 years in Egyptian bondage.

Yet God is always on the side of the innocent and will ensure that "Vengeance is His" and He will recompense or pay people and entire nations for acts of cruelty against another people's group.

As nation, in the USA there was blood shed so we can be free, and when nations [or specific terrorist groups] threaten the freedom that we have come to enjoy the Armed Forces of the United States of America along with her allies, will raise a standard and defend this freedom.

African Americans just a few short generations removed experienced what it is to have their liberty and dignity taken from them. Some of our fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers never knew the freedom we enjoy and often take for granted. They saw it from a distance with the eye of faith and trusting God they endured the taskmaster's whip, the mocking of their lives and embarrassment of having their very manhood taken from them so we wouldn't have to.

They saw a day when blacks, whites, Asians, Hispanics and Africans could all use the same bathroom, sit in the same restaurant, drink from the same water fountain, go to the same schools and live in the same type home. They saw a day when the color of their skin would not

be as important as the character they display. They saw a day when they would have the same liberty as their white counterparts or equals.

On January 1, 1863, although Abraham Lincoln said in the Emancipation Proclamation, that all *“slaves within any State or designated part of a state... shall be thenceforward and forever free;”* we must never forget that it was God Who saw fit to release the African American race so our greater purpose and destiny could be enjoyed.

We must also never forget that it wasn't necessarily a *“race of people”* that abused blacks but a devil that intended to destroy them as a holy seed that God intends to use to establish His Kingdom while releasing multitudes not only from physical slavery, but spiritual slavery as well.

Looking at some historical films of the African American struggle for freedom, you will see many Caucasians marching, fighting and even dying for slavery to end. It is demonic bondage that makes slaves and will take greater spiritual authority to get and stay free from this type of oppression.

This principle of freedom is so important that certain liberties have been written into our constitution so we can be protected by the law of the land. Among these are: freedom of religion; freedom of the press; freedom of speech; freedom from slavery and freedom of assembly.

These laws guarantee every American citizen the right to gather; the right to express themselves; and the liberty to live in a manner that will have no social or political repercussions for sharing their hearts and minds. Yet to get to this point, many people had to die so we as a nation could be truly free and many more have died so we could remain free.

The same principle holds true in the Kingdom of God. The thing that kept us in bondage was sin, and Christ's blood had to be shed in order that we could get free and remain free. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

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Thank You***