

NEW LIFE FREEDOM

Lesson 6



Jesus' conversation with a wealthy young man in Luke 18 shows how hard it is to let go of what we know and want. This young man had kept all of the rules, but just couldn't let go of his security and trust that God would provide what he really needed. After watching him walk away, the disciples wondered how anyone could be saved and transformed. Verse 27 says, "Jesus replied, 'What is impossible with man is possible with God.'" We have to exchange our power source for the one God has prepared for each one of us individually. He's involved with every detail of our stories and knows what it will take to bring us to freedom so we can live in the way He designed. Nothing is too small to bring to Him for healing.

This is going to be a process, not a one-and-done or a quick fix. There are a lot of things we need to unlearn and even more that we need to start doing. But God won't get impatient with us and try to hurry us along. Each one of us will have to go at our own pace and be patient with our progress. Some issues may take more time to overcome than others, but God knows that. In Philippians 1:6, Paul tells us "...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." This process of growth can continue through our whole lives so that when something new hits us and tries to drag us back into the old ways, we'll be prepared and ready to use the tools God gave us from the start.

We can expect our enemy to do his best to interfere with our new growth, but we don't need to be afraid of him. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and a sound mind." The Amplified version describes this as "power, love, sound judgment and personal discipline (abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control.)" These are all abilities that grow the more we use them. We can ask God to help us identify what area of our lives we should work on first and approach them with confidence that we can change.

It's important to remember that we can only deal with this one day at a time. There may be years of damage to tackle, but when we focus on God's ways, the right thing becomes clear. This process of cleaning out the garbage from the past will be like that. The result will be something that blesses us and others as well, hopefully encouraging them to try it themselves. This will make us bear the kind of fruit that Jesus spoke about in John 15:4-5. It doesn't come from us doing things in our own strength and according to our own wisdom. Jesus tells us, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

REFLECTION:

What have you been trying to do in your own strength that you need to surrender to the Holy Spirit? What does it look like to do that? Ask Him to show you!

SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER READING:

Romans 5:4, Revelation 3:20, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 143:10, Luke 18:27, Matthew 18:28-30, Philippians 1:6, 2 Timothy 1:7, Matthew 6:33-34, John 15:4-5



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