Wednesday Devotional

11/18/26

Scripture: Galatians 5: 1

Stay Free By: Dr. Charles Stanley

A slave has little freedom to accomplish anything in accordance with his own desires. You can imagine the elation a person experiences when released from his confinement. His world takes on new meaning and possibilities – he can do things he'd only dreamt about before. But he is still responsible to live within the confines of the law of his nation. So even though he's free, in a sense, he is still under some restriction.

Likewise, the apostle Paul explained that we were once in bondage to the sin nature within us. Now, through Christ, we've been set free – our wrongdoing can no longer affect our eternal standing. Yet Paul admonished us to be careful not to feed the fires of fleshly desire, which can bring us back into enslavement. He explained, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful.....I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Corinthians 6:12 NKJV).

When you try to meet your needs in your own way instead of how God has provided for you to fulfill them, you're confining yourself to a miserable existence that's far less than what He has for you. Don't do it. Focus on Jesus, who always leads you to freedom.

Stanley, Dr. Charles. *Jesus, Our Perfect Hope.* Thomas Nelson: Nashville, 2018