



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide 8/19  
Based on sermon: “Freedom”  
Preached August 15, 2009

1. How does the Holy Spirit give us a sense of belonging to God? (See Ephesians 1:13, 14.)
2. The Holy Spirit is described in Eph. 1 as a “deposit” and a “seal.” Explain what Paul means and then discuss what difference this makes to your Christian life. How does this aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work change, improve, or help my daily life?
3. What is the evidence that we belong to God? The proof that we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and are under new ownership? (See Galatians 5:16-26.)
4. Read John 14:22-24, then debate the following statement: “Jesus reveals Himself to those who love and obey Him. And this may be the biggest reason more Christians don’t receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit—we have a problem with authority. . . . Instead of being testimonies of resurrection life, modern churches more closely resemble ‘wild life preserves’—places where natural man is protected under the blanket of ‘grace’ and no one can meddle with them.” Agree or disagree? In what ways are churches like “wild life preserves”?
5. What is the faith of Jesus? (See John 14:31.) Shouldn’t our faith be the same as Jesus’?
6. What else does the Spirit bring to the believer? (See 2 Cor. 3:17-18.)
7. Consider this statement: “If the Spirit is in me I am free—from bondage, and free to receive my inheritance as a child of God.” Is this really true or not? If it is true, why are so many Christians living like captives? (Bound by fear, depression, anger, old wounds, hatred, addictions, etc.)
8. Add to your discussion of #7 this statement: “It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His spirit as a divine power to overcome all *hereditary* and *cultivated* tendencies to evil.” –The Desire of Ages, p. 671. Really? Is *this* true?
9. How does Jesus’ statement in John 16:33 translate into our ability or power to overcome the things that bind us?
10. Bottom line: Does the Spirit bring freedom? In what way? Does He bring only a “spiritual” freedom, or is it real freedom from real bondage? And if so, what would God have us do about it? What will you do about it now?