

# Liberating Christ

## This Changes Everything

To religious minds, it may sound sacrilegious to speak of Christ as being shackled and needing liberating. As we know, God is all-powerful and can do anything.

*"For with God, nothing will be impossible."* (Luke 1:37)

However, a very important fact we must accept is that there is a way in which God and Christ can be rendered powerless. Man does have the ability to block and paralyse God's purposes.

What we are talking about is the area of man's free will. If a person is not willing to let Christ *"come in"* and change their life and affairs, He will not force Himself on them.

In addition, if a person is *"self-centered"* (albeit a Christian), they effectively shut Christ out of their life and ministry.

Because of man's Fall (sin entering the world) in the Garden of Eden, he is fundamentally *self-centered*. His existence revolves around promoting his own *self-importance* in order to overcome inherent feelings of being disenfranchised, and cut off from God. He finds some relief by the attention he receives from his *self-promotion* efforts, and subconsciously rejects the concept that he needs a Saviour. He is a *"self-made man."* He works hard at succeeding and making himself famous. He deludes himself into thinking this is the only way to happiness and contentment.

In this way, his self-promotion shackles God.

God (by His own decree), will not violate that person's independence, nor does He respond well to our self-glorification.

## Can committed Christians lock God out?

For the same reasons mentioned above, it is possible for Christians to spend much of their time promoting their *"old man"* (*false self*), and in so doing, effectively block the path to the regeneration of the *"new born-again man,"* their *true self*. The *true self* is their spirit. *True self* is the area where God wants to live, in His *"temple."* (1 Corinthians 3:16).

God's intention is that ultimately, this new *"born-again man,"* be a part of His cosmic rulership team. That is, seated with Christ on His throne as He (Christ) sits on Father's throne. Man ruling and reigning with Him. (Revelation 3:21)

Did you get that!

Sadly, in the current Christian world, many men and women build huge churches and ministries with their own personal name on them, or a denominational name, or a “brand name” of some kind. They will then compete with the other churches and ministries for their share of the “market,” in terms of membership and financial giving. Like any successful corporation, they work hard to keep their *false self/false dream* alive. As Christian ministers, they are no different to those mentioned at the top of the page. They try hard, to make a “*name for themselves*” to gain a sense of achievement, success, and a sense of self-worth.

The question must be asked here. Are they truly “born-again?” God knows.

Some love to bask in the attention received by becoming a “Christian celebrity.” Invites to lots of TV “shows” and speaking engagements gives them the publicity they need to keep themselves in the eyes of the “consumer.” It opens doors and helps sell their books and tapes, which brings in money. This can, at its base, be activated by a “works” motivation, a self-actualisation motivation, or a profit motivation. “God must be pleased with how motivated I am to achieve something great and successful for Him.” All the while the underlying motive can be to *make a name for themselves*, in an effort to fill the void in their soul realm (false self), originating from the Fall. Insecurity, fear, separation, broken fellowship with Father, shame, and guilt, are all the product of the Fall. Many will go to incredible limits to get their *false self* built up with temporary “fixes.” They are energised by the attention received, and convince themselves it is “*the anointing*.”

*False self* will always keep the door of the heart firmly shut to others, including the Holy Spirit as a way of self-protection.

When Christ comes knocking, they are “deaf.” They either cannot or will not, hear Him.

Christ is therefore rendered powerless. He will not violate our right to run our lives how we want. He does not want robots; He wants yielded hearts that are in complete fellowship with Him.

### **It's not just leaders**

No, it is not just Christian leaders who can be addicted to *self-promotion*. The warning applies to us all. Anything that comes from self-confidence and self-promotion cannot be of God. Unlike the world who admires *self-confidence* in others, all true followers of Christ are called to nail it to the Cross and let it die. *Self-confidence* is an enemy of the Cross and is alien to God's way of doing things.

*Self-confidence* blocks Christ, shuts Him out, and opens the door to the demonic.

*"But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there.*

*"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* (James 3:14-16; 4:6)

Understandably, what we have said above is a hard saying and hard to bear. Our traditions and ways of doing things have become dear to us. What we have come to know and respect, we emulate and try hard to fit into the "system." Just like the world, we are trying to fit in, but in our case, a Christian context. We pursue a way of life that *"seems right to us."*

*"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*  
(Proverbs 14:12)

### **Having ears to hear liberates Christ**

Jesus in His ministry on earth recorded in the Gospels and in His Revelation given to Apostle John, repeatedly called for those *"who have ears to hear."* At this time it is critical we are listening to what He is saying.

And, by the way, He is still speaking...

Just as it was in biblical times, so it is today...

The vast majority of people on earth...

Do NOT have ears to hear!

In addition (sad to say), nor do the vast majority so-called Christians who claim to be "born again." They are not "born again" if they are unwilling to allow their *false self* to die. They forfeit their right to having their *true self* come alive with almighty, throbbing, Holy Spirit power and revelation. Accordingly, they *cannot hear, nor see.*

### **Jesus knocking at the door of His Church**

Jesus is portrayed in the Book of Revelation as standing at the door of the Church of Laodicea knocking, with a view to being let in. In the case of that particular Church, Jesus describes it as lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. His assessment and judgement of that Church was one of utter disgust.

*"Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spew you out of my mouth."* (Revelation 3:16)

He went on to say, *"... do you not know you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked..."* (Revelation 3:17)

Therefore, in addition to being unable to hear Jesus knocking, the Laodiceans were *half-hearted* with little commitment to Christ. In this way, they were not opening the door to let Jesus in, either because they could not hear, or, because they did not want to let Him in. He might come and spoil THEIR plans and THEIR comfortable life.

Jesus is still knocking at the door of our hearts. However, how much longer will He continue, if we keep ignoring Him?

His grace does abound, but the time of grace does run out. The scriptures declare it. The door will close, and the *unwise* will be locked out, just as Jesus described in His parable concerning the five wise and five foolish virgins.

*“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us! But He answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.’”*  
(Matthew 25:11-13)

Listen now though, to the reward offered to those of the Church of Laodicea who obviously would rush to open the door to Jesus, invite Him in, and who became “overcomers” in the process.

*“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit on My throne, as I also have overcome and sit with My Father on His throne. ‘He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”* (Revelation 3:21-22)

What an offer!

Who would possibly want to refuse it?

Sit with Jesus on His throne?

I am ready, willing and wanting!

What about you?

*False self* cannot, or will not, hear and respond. It is too preoccupied with its own agendas.

### **Christ liberated changes everything**

There are clear biblical standards for *sons and overcomers*. It appears these are the ones who will be the *authentic Body of Christ* and not all the so-called Christians who ever prayed a “sinner’s prayer” in an emotion charged meeting somewhere. Below is a rough approximation of what it means to be a Romans 8 “son of God” and, or, a Revelation 12 “overcomer.”

God is looking right now for these ones. These are they “who are led by the Spirit” who along with Jesus their Master, will “change everything.”

- You must be truly born-again. This can only happen through repentance (accepting you are a sinner), and inviting *Jesus to be the Lord and Master* of your life. You must deny *false self* (powered by your mind, will and emotions), take up your cross and follow Jesus. (John 3:1-21; Luke 9:23)
- God will actually come live in that born-again person. (Ephesians 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- You become a Spirit led person who alone is a son of God. (Romans 8:14)
- You become members of the *authentic Body of Christ*.
- You must deny that anyone can become a member of the *authentic Body of Christ* just by praying a simple “sinner’s prayer.” If people do not put their *false self* to death, they cannot be a disciple of Jesus. (Luke 9:23)
- You will have full fellowship with Jesus Christ. “I will come in and dine with him,” said Jesus. (Revelation 3:20)
- You will become His (Christ’s) “*flesh and bones*.” (Ephesians 5:20)
- You will receive “spiritual gifts” from God for the express purpose of building up and edifying the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7; Romans 12:6; 1 Peter 4:10)
- You will become a member of Jesus’ Glorious Church that is - “*Hades withstanding*,” “*without spot or wrinkle holy and without blemish*,” and, “*Satan overcoming*.” (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 12:11)
- In addition, you, (with Christ living in you) will be released to be an ambassador for Christ, bringing healing, deliverance, and transformation to people, cities and nations. You (and Christ) doing the miracles Jesus did and even greater. (2 Corinthians 5:20; John 14:12-14)

**Don’t you want to be a part of God’s last day’s plan and purpose?**

In addition, what we have said is just “scratching the surface” of what God will do through the *authentic Body of Christ*.

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)*

Now is the time...

After 2000 years of trial and error, the *true and authentic Body of Christ* must arise and reveal Jesus the Christ to a longing, groaning world.

*“For even the whole creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God’s sons to be made known – waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship.” (Romans 8:19 Amplified)*

*“That in the dispensation of fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on the earth – in Him.” (Ephesians 1:10)*

To be continued...

Amen – so be it!

And to God be *all* the glory!

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**Quote from the introduction to 2 Corinthians by Eugene H. Peterson in The Message Bible**

*“Because leadership is necessarily an exercise of authority, it easily shifts into an exercise of power. But the minute it does that, it begins to inflict damage on both the leader and the led. Paul, studying Jesus, had learned a kind of leadership in which he managed to stay out of the way so that others could deal with God without having to go through him. All who are called to exercise leadership in whatever capacity - parent or coach, pastor or president, teacher or manager - can be grateful to Paul for this letter and to the Corinthians for provoking it.”*

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