

A silhouette of a person walking towards a large wooden cross against a golden, hazy background. The person is on the left, walking towards the right. The cross is on the right, standing tall. The background is a warm, golden light with soft clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Freedom To Become Through God's Love
Judges 6:7-16

Freedom To Become Through God's Love

- **Psalm 1:1-2 NIV**, 1 Blessed (*Free*) is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.
 - **NLV**, Happy (*Free*) is the man who does not walk in the way sinful men tell him to, or stand in the path of sinners, or sit with those who laugh at the truth. 2 But he finds joy in the Law of the Lord and thinks about His Law day and night.

Freedom To Become Through God's Love

- Did you notice the progression shown
 - Does not walk in the way sinful men tell him to
 - To align one's life, decisions, and character with
 - Does not stand in the path of sinners
 - Actively, supporting, or intentionally adopting a way of thinking
 - Does not sit in the company of mockers
 - Settling into a lifestyle that actively defies, ridicules, and despises God's truth, authority

Freedom To Become Through God's Love

- **Psalm 1:1-2 NLV**, NLV, Happy is the man who does not walk in the way sinful men tell him to, or stand in the path of sinners, or sit with those who laugh at the truth. 2 But he finds joy in the Law of the Lord and thinks about His Law day and night.
 - How did this mocker get to this way?
 - “Randy, he chose what direction his life would be by his decisions”
 - Who gave him that freedom?
 - God did through as an act of His love
 - It's called free-will or self-determination

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- **Genesis 2:15-17 NIV**, 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”
 - Do you hear freedom in this command?

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- Was there a better way to use their freedom?
 - **Psalm 1:2 NIV**, 2 but whose delight is in the law (*Word*) of the Lord, and who meditates (*ponders*) on his law day and night.
 - **NLV**, 2 But he finds joy in the Law of the Lord and thinks about His Law day and night.
 - Meditates, Ponders to learn what wisdom can be used to live a blessed life by making decisions that glorify God

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- **Joshua 24:14-15 NIV**, 14 “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
 - Let's look at this in action

Scripture

- **Judges 6:7-10 NIV**, 7 When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8 he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 9 I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

Scripture

- **Judges 6:11-12 NIV**, 11 The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12 When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”
- **Judges 6:13 NIV**, 13 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

Scripture

- **Judges 6:14-16 NIV**, 14 The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”
 - 15 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”
 - 16 The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

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- **John 8:31-32 NIV**, 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - Set you free from what?
 - The law of Sin and Death
 - **Romans 8:1-2 NIV**, 1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

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- **John 8:31-32 NIV**, 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - Set you free from what?
 - The power of sin
 - **Romans 6:14 NIV**, 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law (*condemnation*), but under grace.

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- The power of sin
 - **Romans 6:14 NIV**, 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.
 - Since this is true – Is Addiction really your master, Fear, Anger, Regret, Shame, Hopelessness, Worthlessness
- How can I walk in the newness of my true Master?
 - Finding joy in the Word of the Lord and thinking, pondering about it day and night. (*Psalm 1:2, NLV*)
 - Using Gideon as an example

Determine not to squander the freedom God has blessed you with

- The nation of Israel had been blessed by God enormously
 - God had revealed Himself to them
 - He had given them His Word to know how to live close to Him
 - God loves Israel, Jewish people
 - **Jeremiah 31:3 NIV**, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”
 - Israel’s response **Vs. 10**, I said to you, “I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live. But you have not listened to me.”

Determine not to squander the freedom God has blessed you with

- They could have lived in perfect peace and protection, without fear and the fruit of their hard labor taken
 - God's people possessing God's Word yet squandered their freedom to imitate the world
 - Just like Adam and Eve, they wanted to live their lives with God's blessings but not His conditions

Determine not to squander the freedom God has blessed you with

- They could have lived in perfect peace and protection, without fear and their hard labor taken
 - Now don't be throwing stones at them
 - We as born-again children of God have been blessed even greater with our sins forgiven and the Holy Spirit living within us
 - We have a clearer understanding of how God desires us to live for His glory
 - We have the example of Jesus Christ
- Do we or are we squandering our freedom today like Israel?

Look at your life through the freedom God has blessed you with

- **Vs 12**, When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”
 - Hear God say to Gideon, “I am giving you the freedom to step outside of your preconceptions of yourself and to choose a new you”
 - Gideon did not look like a mighty warrior, think like a mighty warrior, wasn't trained to be a mighty warrior
 - But God saw a mighty warrior hidden in Gideon and knew the potential in Gideon under His hand

Look at your life through the freedom God has blessed you with

- God looks past your failures, fears, weaknesses, lack, pride all the way to your potential under His mighty hand
 - God is giving you freedom to see yourself through His eyes using His Word
 - **Romans 8:1 NIV**, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”
 - **Romans 8:37 NIV**, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Look at your life through the freedom God has blessed you with

- God looks past your failures, fears, weaknesses, lack, pride all the way to your potential under His mighty hand
 - **John 10:27-29 NIV**, “27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”
 - **Psalms 23:1 NIV**, “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”

Look at your life through the freedom God has blessed you with

- Gideon like us has problems grasping himself as God sees him
 - **Vs. 13**, “Pardon but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”
 - Gideon begins by blaming God
 - The Lord does not argue with Gideon, just encourages him to move forward

Look at your life through the freedom God has blessed you with

- Gideon like us has problems grasping himself as God sees us
 - **Vs. 15**, “How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”
 - Gideon doesn't agree with God's assessment of him
 - **Vs. 16**, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”
 - “Gideon, I am giving you the freedom to become what I am seeing in you”
- This is exactly what God says to us today

Choose to step into His freedom and become who He sees

- **Vs. 14**, The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”
 - Gideon has a decision to make
 - Will I choose to trust God and walk in the freedom He is giving me and let Him take my freedom where He desires...blessing
 - Or will I stay where I am at, complaining, wondering where God is at
 - Will we continue to make excuses
 - Continue to see ourselves through the eyes of flesh rather than the eyes of faith

Choose to step into His freedom and become who He sees

- **Vs. 14**, The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”
 - “Am I not sending you” – Think of Abraham, Moses, Joshua....
 - They were just like you Gideon
 - I kept my word to them, but they had to begin walking in the direction of my vision for the life I was showing them
 - Abraham to promised land
 - Moses back to Egypt
 - Joshua taking over for Moses

Choose to step into His freedom and become who He sees

- **Vs. 14**, The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”
 - I am giving you a choice Gideon to walk in the freedom I have promised and given you
 - **Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NIV**, 19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Choose to step into His freedom and become who He sees

- **Matthew 16:17-18 NIV**, 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter (*small stone, pebble*), and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Choose to step into His freedom and become who He sees

- No different today
 - God gives us the freedom to accept or reject His offering of Jesus on the cross for or sin debt
 - God gives us the freedom to allow the Holy Spirit complete, unfettered access to every area of our lives, rewiring our thought processes
 - God gives us freedom to accept or reject His Word of truth
 - God loves us enough to give us the freedom to reject Him
 - Because true love must be given with the possibility of rejection or it is not true love

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- **Galatians 5:1 NIV**, 1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
 - **MSG**, Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

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- **Jeremiah 9:23-24 MSG**, “Don’t let the wise brag of their wisdom. Don’t let heroes brag of their exploits. Don’t let the rich brag of their riches.
 - If you brag, brag of this and this only: That you understand and know me. I’m God, and I act in loyal love. I do what’s right and set things right and fair, and delight in those who do the same things. These are my trademarks.”
- How different would your freedom be if what consistently came to your mind and out your mouth was bragging on God

A silhouette of a person walking towards a large wooden cross against a dramatic, golden-hued sky. The person is on the left, walking towards the right. The cross is on the right, standing tall. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

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