**We are Free Because Jesus made us Free**! -John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**What is freedom in Christ?** -It is Freedom from the punishment of our sins! Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

**How does God make His Freedom from the punishment of sin real to us?** John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**Real Freedom comes from God not man!** America gives us a country to worship God freely. Justice and Peace.

1. **The Old Saul Acts 8:1a**

V1a “consenting unto his death” Saul took a life, but didn’t take His freedom in Christ!

1. **There is a Protection from God** – Romans 8:35 -Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
2. **The Christian cast their burdens on the Lord** Ps 55:22 – Psalms 55:22 “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
3. **The Christian has the gift of God -** Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
4. **The Siege of the Sinner Acts 8:1b**

V1b “V1b There was great [GREEK “deeoguemos'” persecution] but they can’t stop God’s Message! #1

1. **The church preaches Christ**- 1 Cor. 1:23 “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
2. **The Church is alive in Jesus not religion** – 1 Cor. 15:14 “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”
3. **The Church lives to please God not man -** Gal. 1:10 “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
4. **The Christian isn’t offended -** Mat. 13:21 “Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.
5. **The Strength of God in the Saved Saint Acts 8:2,4,5,8**
6. **Our Strength comes from the Lord** – Eph. 6:10 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
7. **The Christian Rests on God’s Kindness**. Psa. 31:21 “Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.”
8. **The Christian has strengths in weakness** – A Paradox-

2 Cor. 12:10 “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

1. **The Christian can see God’s Perfect Plan** – 2 Pet. 1:9 “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

**God is glorified when we are practicing real faith and patience in the Lord in all circumstances!**

2 Thess. 1:4 “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Mar 10:29-30 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

* There is a strength in Persecution 2 Cor. 12:10
* There is a glory in Persecution – 2 Thess 1:4

The fear and absence of Faith in Persecution –Matthew 13:21 – God’s Test of Faith

God’s Blessings for those that leave everything for the gospel of Jesus – Mark 10:29-30

V2 The Saints will stand out For Jesus “devout men carried Stephen to his burial”

1. Devout means to taking hold well!
2. Simenon’s Testimony - Luke 2:25 – Faith is waiting on God –Devotion to God is Waiting on God by taking hold of His Character and Truths.
3. Being Strong in the Lord!
4. Ananias’ Testimony – Acts 22:12 -
5. The Christian continues to do God’s Work at all times –
6. Faith is Praying Phill. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
7. Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.
8. V4 –“therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word!
9. God’s Word is what brings the Christian Hope!
10. God’s Word is what is important to the Christian.
11. God used the hardship to teach the Christian obedience to His Great Commission & Great Command! the Christians to spread His message.
12. What is the Great Commissions? Matthew 28:19-20
13. What is the Great Command?
14. Deut 6:5 -And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
15. Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.