



2 Necessities of Freedom

I have been thinking quite a bit about freedom. Both American freedom and spiritual freedom. After all isn't that what all people want? To be free. There have been speeches about it. Demonstrations for it. Wars to declare it. Calvary to deliver it. But what is it?

If you look in Webster's Dictionary, there are several definitions for freedom. Instead of trying to appeal to all of them, I am choosing to work with the one we think most of when we say, "freedom." It is definition 1b. *"liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another : independence."* When we speak of freedom this is what we refer to isn't it? "Liberation" from "slavery," "restraint" and "power of another". To be free from having to do what we don't want because someone told us to. "I can do anything I want!" Oh to be that free!

But is that what freedom brings? I make the rules? I only do what I want? I'm not experiencing that. Are you? My day comes with things I don't want to do. Chores. Paying bills. Not having steak every night without vegetables (ok, this may be too much). But my point is, if I am free why do I have to do these things?

It is because freedom is an individual choice of submission. It is choosing whom you will answer. It is a deep decision underlying all the decisions we make to achieve a certain goal. There is still responsibility. There are still expectations. But freedom is that you can choose your leaders and your god. We understand our leaders, but god (small "g")? We know that we can elect politicians, but god (small "g")? Yes. Let me explain.

Every freedom has two parts. A responsibility and a right. They are determined by whom you submit your freedom. They will establish a set of expectations that you are to go by and live your life accordingly. Upon completion of those responsibilities, even on a daily basis, you will receive the right promised by the entity you have submitted to. To be free you must have both. You can't have rights without responsibility nor the other way around. And you are free to choose whom you will submit to.

So what, or Who are you submitted to? The second greatest gift (after Jesus) is the freedom of choice. You are free to choose God. But you are free to walk away. But if you choose God, what an incredible "right" you will get.

From My Heart,

Billy