



Scripture for the week of July 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Scriptures this week will be taken from different books of the Bible and will remind us what it means to have Freedom in Christ.

Sunday, July 4:

Scripture: Read John 8:36: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Questions: Have you ever heard the phrase, "once an addict, always an addict"? Do you realize that this has to be written by someone who is trying to break an addiction on their own strength? Do you know that real freedom only comes through Jesus? Do you know what it means to be "free indeed"? Have you truly felt this?

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for the reminder that I can truly be free in You. You are there to help me with anything that I am struggling with that is an addictive behavior. Remind me of this daily, especially if I am struggling with a behavior that I cannot break. Help me to lean on You for Your strength.

Monday, July 5:

Scripture: Read Galatians 5:1: "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

Questions: Do you know what kind of freedom is being talked about here? Did you know that the freedom God offers is freedom to be free of evil influences? But do you also know that we have the freedom to choose between evil and good? How well are you doing at this? Do you understand where to go when you struggle with this?

Prayer: Lord, sometimes I find myself struggling to overcome evil. Bring to mind this Scripture when I do struggle, reminding me that this is why You died for me. You desire for me to be free from temptations and struggles that I cannot overcome myself.

Tuesday, July 6:

Scripture: Read Psalm 119:45: "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts."

Questions: Do you see that we can walk about in freedom if we are seeking after God's Word? Does this help convince you of the importance of being in and studying God's Word? Will you make that commitment today to be more diligent in reading and studying God's Word?

Prayer: Lord God, sometimes I am not as diligent in reading and studying Your Word as I should be. Open up opportunities for me to do this more regularly so that I can walk in freedom. I do not desire to live my life weighed down from the struggles of this world but to feel lighter knowing that You will get me through whatever I am dealing with.

Wednesday, July 7:

Scripture: Read Galatians 5:13: "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

Questions: Do you realize that even though Christ has set us free from our sins, we have to choose whether or not to sin and whether or not to follow the law? Do you understand that even though you have free will to break the law, through Christ you can be free from feeling like you are a slave to the law? Wouldn't you rather be a slave to God so that you will receive eternal life?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that You died to keep us free from sin. But in this relationship with You it does not give us the right to go around breaking the law and being disobedient to You. Help me to see where I am falling short and show me how to make this right. Help me to show love to others not because I have to but because of the love I know You have for me.

Thursday, July 8:

Scripture: Read Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Questions: Do you realize that in addition to the gift of freedom to choose, frees us from evil influence, that God also gives us the freedom to choose life? Have you taken care of this free gift of eternal life? Do you know how? Have you turned your life over to Jesus?

Prayer: Lord, thank You that You want us to have the free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. If I still have not fully taken care of receiving this free gift, show me the steps to take or bring to mind someone who will walk me through this process. I do desire to spend eternity with You.

Friday, July 9:

Scripture: Read Romans 8:1-4: “ 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. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Questions: Do you believe you are in Christ (believe in Him, accept Him as your Lord and Savior, and give Him the rule over your life)? Do you see that it is because through Jesus, we receive the Spirit who gives us life to set us free from the law of sin and death? Did you know that is through the Spirit that we are set free from the guilt and punishment of sin but also from the power and rule of sin? Do you really know what this freedom is like or are you holding on to things that are weighing you down?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your Spirit who sets me free from the guilt that I sometimes feel from the sins that I have committed. I really desire to know the freedom that You give me and know that once I have confessed my sin to You, that it is truly forgiven and has set me free from condemnation. Give me the strength I need to fight the voices in my head and/or from others that say otherwise.

Saturday, July 10:

Scripture: Read John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Questions: Do you see this verse as the doorway to freedom? Do you cherish your freedom or take for granted? Do you realize that the freedom provided by man is not true freedom? Do you know that it is only when we accept the freedom provided by God through faith in Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, that we can truly be free?

Prayer: God, thank You for Your love for me which provides me an opportunity to know about Jesus and through Him receive the freedom from sin and the freedom to enter into eternal life. Continue to reveal more of Your Word and self to me, especially when I am struggling with voices that condemn and are untruthful.