

GROWING IN FREEDOM
#SermonFreedom
Growing God's Way - Part 8
Dr. Mark Jackson , October 22, 2017
2 Peter 2:17-22

Ephesians 4:14-15 We must stop acting like children. We must not let deceitful people trick us by their false teachings, which are like winds that toss us around from place to place. ¹⁵ ...**we must grow** in every way and **be more like Christ...** (CEV)

Galatians 5:1 Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and **do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.** (TEV)

Three Facts About False Freedom

1. IT'S PACKED WITH PHONY PROMISES (VS 17-18)

2 Peter 2:17-18 These people are as useless as **dried-up springs** or as **clouds blown away by the wind.** They are doomed to blackest darkness. ¹⁸ They brag about themselves with **empty, foolish words.** With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. (NLT)

Psalms 145:13b The **LORD is faithful** to all his promises... (NIV)

Three Empty Illustrations

- They are like empty **SPRINGS**

John 4:13-14 Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But no one who drinks the **water I give** will ever be thirsty again. The **water I give** is like a flowing fountain that gives **eternal life.**" (CEV)

- They are like empty **CLOUDS**

Jude 1:12b ...They are like clouds blowing over dry land without giving rain, **promising much,** but **producing nothing...** (LB)

- They use empty **WORDS**

Ephesians 5:6 **Let no one deceive you with empty words,** for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. (NIV)

2. IT'S PREACHED BY PHONY PEOPLE (VS 19-20)

2 Peter 2:19-20 They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.²⁰ And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. (NLT)

Galatians 5:13 My brothers, God called you to be free. But do not use your freedom as an excuse to do the things that please your sinful self... (ICB)

Matthew 12:43-45 “When an evil spirit comes out of a person, it goes through dry places looking for a place to rest. But it doesn't find any.”⁴⁴ Then it says, ‘I'll go back to the home I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean, and in order.⁴⁵ Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself. They enter and take up permanent residence there. In the end the condition of that person is worse than it was before. That is what will happen to the evil people of this day.” (GW)

3. IT PRODUCES A PHONY PROFESSION (VS 21-22)

2 Peter 2:21-22 It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life.²² They prove the truth of this proverb: “A dog returns to its vomit.” And another says, “A washed pig returns to the mud.” (NLT)

Jude 1:19 These people... follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's Spirit in them. (NLT)

Ephesians 1:7-8 For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God,⁸ which he gave to us in such large measure! (TEV)

1 Peter 2:24 Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we could be free from sins and might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (NSRV)

John 8:36 If the Son gives you freedom, you are free! (CEV)