

# FREELY GIVEN

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When God gave up His Son for us, He gave us everything else just as freely, all things are ours, everything we may need or desire is given to us just as freely as Jesus Christ was given.

Romans 8:31-32 tells us, *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”*

There is nothing required on our part, no faith, no goodness, no money, no merit, no strength, nothing, because Jesus Christ was given for us—freely.

Romans 5:6 tells us that, *“when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

Everything else is ours just as freely as Jesus Christ was given. We don't earn it, we can't buy it, we don't merit it, because it is a free gift and is to be given to us just as Jesus Christ was given to us.

So if it be true, that Jesus Christ was freely given, we can have every other blessing just as freely. It is our privilege to have our health, our strength, peace in the home and in the workplace, protection for the home, our family and loved ones. We are to have prosperity and success everywhere; we are to have victory through Christ Jesus who loved us and gave Himself up for us. As we couple this up with Romans 8:32, we have a wonderful combination,

If we are not receiving these free gifts, we can be sure we must be looking somewhere else rather than looking to God alone. The Blood of Jesus Christ has purchased every good and perfect gift for us and it is ours, when we look to God alone for it.

The very moment we get everything else out of the way and look to the living God alone, every blessing will begin to start flowing in just as freely as Jesus Christ was given. If we are not receiving all these blessings, we must be looking to some other plan or power. But when we depend on God alone, He will send upon us every required blessing, just as freely as He gave us His Son, Jesus Christ.

Satan tries to cover this up and say that there is no harm in trying to do it ourselves. We start thinking, we are doing the best we can to serve and trust God, we are trying as much as we can to do His will, so everything should turn out alright.

This means, we are trying in our own strength and don't even realize that we are not doing it according God's Word. This is just as bad or maybe even worse than lying, cheating or even stealing.

Those who are lying and stealing know where they are wrong. However, those who are striving in their own strength to get these blessings don't realize where they are wrong. They are just like Job, striving in his own strength to gain all that God was waiting and longing to give to him.

When Job laid aside his self-confidence and his self-righteous attitude, then God was able to work. Job learned that his own ways and plans brought him down to that place of suffering, on an ash heap, full of boils, lost his family and friends, even his wife turned from him when he needed her the most.

All this time, God was working and when Job began to realize his mistakes and placed his trust in God, God was able to begin His work.

After God had spoken to Job, Job said, "All my efforts, all my righteousness, all my dependence on human plans and power I now detest and my desire is to throw it all aside forever, and I choose to depend upon Thee and Thee alone."

Job didn't need to pray for deliverance but he proved his change of heart and said, "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth Thee; wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

The moment Job got out of the way, laid aside his plans and efforts of his own, he was delivered almost at once.

After we have discovered what we have been depending on and get it out of the way, God will shower His blessings upon us freely.

This seriousness of depending on our own efforts and plans has robbed the Christian world of every blessing that Jesus Christ has freely given to us. They have no protection, no health, healing or answers to prayer. Satan has robbed them of all that Jesus has so freely given, and just because their dependence is all on man and his devices.

It is a very serious situation, because there is nothing that can take the place of looking to God alone for all our help.

One thing we must learn is to look to God alone for all the spiritual, physical, and financial help needed; to right all our wrongs, in fact, to place everything in God's hands that concerns our life here for time and eternity.

Paul told us that he had the sentence of death in his body, he was right at the jaws of death, that he might learn not to depend on himself but on the living God.

*Acts 14:19-20, "And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe."*

This was apparently what Paul was referring to when he said that he had the sentence of death in his body. Then he had to learn that lesson again when the messenger of Satan was sent to buffet him.

He prayed that this would depart from him but God told him that this was allowed to happen to him to show him how helpless and hopeless he was in himself, that he might learn to fight his battles in the divine way instead of the human way.

God told Paul that when you discover My strength and how much greater it is than human strength, God's great strength would flow in and take the place of his weakness.

That's what God meant when HE told Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9 *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*

In other words, when we are down to our last little bit of strength and can't go on, and then decide, finally and forever, to turn the whole thing over to God alone, then He can work. His strength is made perfect when our strength is gone. When we lay aside all our efforts and take that final stand, that all our help must come from God alone, then God's spiritual, physical, financial, and every other blessing can flow right in.

That is why we have so many battles spiritually and physically, whether in the home or in the work place, and they will continue until we make that final decision to go through with trusting God alone.

Victory in the home, our health, protection, our spiritual and financial needs, they all must come from God alone. God wants to take away all evil desires, bad habits, and attitudes, and it all will change when we place it all into His hands once and for all.

It's the same financially. God is all sufficient for that as well, and yet many will depend on their weekly income. If we look to what we can earn and what comes from our employer, we will never enter into our financial inheritance.

We have fallen heir to God's great financial wealth, there is no need to depend on our weekly income. We should get our eyes on the great God of Heaven, on our great financial inheritance and begin to draw money out.

But if we insist on depending on that weekly income, we won't get any more than that, we are depending on human efforts completely.

Philippians 4:19 tells us, *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

It is the same when meeting people right. We need to lay aside all efforts of our own. To depend on what we say or how we act to get someone to act Christlike is as much idolatry as worshiping the golden calf, as Israel did.

When we have learned the lesson of depending on God alone and can say from the heart, "all my help from Thee I bring," our troubles will cease and we will then enjoy all the blessings that God is waiting to give to us 'freely'.

Again, Romans 8:32, *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

When Israel left Egypt, they were under the blood of a little lamb. Their protection was so great that even a dog could not bark at them. When they came to the Red Sea the water's parted for them and when Pharoah tried to follow them, God completely destroyed him and his people.

But, with Israel's rebellious attitude, they lost every blessing God had so freely given to them.

Moses went up into the mount and stayed forty days while God gave him many instructions and also wrote the ten commandments in stone. While he was up there, the people said to Aaron, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses,

the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.”  
(Exodus 32:1)

Aaron took the jewelry that God permitted them to take from the Egyptians and made a golden calf. God permitted them to take this jewelry to bring out that hidden idolatry that was hidden deep in their hearts and show them that this hidden idolatry is the cause of all their trouble.

God wants us to get rid of that idolatry hidden in our hearts as well. Anything, in our heart that we may be depending on to bring us peace, happiness or prosperity, instead of depending on God and His Almighty power, is idolatry, and must be gotten rid of.

God told Moses to get thee down quickly, for the people have corrupted themselves. Exodus 32:9-10, *“The LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: This was all because of that great sin of idolatry, placing their trust in something besides the living God alone.*

Moses took that calf and burned it in the fire and ground it to powder. It had to be gotten rid of completely, out of sight, nowhere to be seen. That is the same with that hidden idolatry in our hearts, it has to be brought out and gotten rid of completely, nowhere to be found, gone forever.

It was the same as in the time of the Judges during Gideon’s time when the Midianites and the Amalekites came to destroy the Israelites and all their farmlands. God sent an angel to visit Gideon and said, “The Lord is with thee thou mighty man of valor.”

But Gideon said to him Judges 6:13, *“Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”*

Gideon started to blame God for all their troubles, but the Lord looked upon him and said, “Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites, have I not sent thee.”

The first thing that Gideon had to do was to break down the altar of Baal which was in his father’s house and then to cut down the grove where they worshiped that idol. Once they got this idol out of the way, then God could work.

The Midianite army were as grasshoppers and covered the mountain and valley, but God kept cutting back Gideon's army and told him, "There is still too many."

God told Gideon to take the men down to the water and He would tell him who would go with him to battle. Gideon's army was reduced to 300 men to go against the hundreds of thousands of Midianites. This was all done so they could not say that their own hand had saved them.

It was no trouble for Gideon and his army to defeat this great host and win this battle after every hindrance was out of the way. Before this battle, Israel had been hiding and were afraid of that host, but when that idol was gotten out of the way and their confidence placed on God, nothing could stand against them.

It is the same with us, when every idol, or anything we have any confidence in, besides the living God above, is out of the way, then God can work. God wants to give us all things freely.

Let us not forget Romans 8:32 *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

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# The First Century Gospel

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