

Freedom in Christ: Focus
Romans 8:1-11;Acts 2:25-28

Statement: When I talk to God, do I spend more time rehearsing my failures or enjoying His presence?

I. Freedom comes when we focus on Christ's work, not our failures Romans 8:1,2

A. Don't focus on your failures (1)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

B. Focus on the law of freedom (2)

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

II. Freedom comes by refocusing our minds Romans 8:3-7

A. Refocus our minds on Christ's sacrificial love (3,4)

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

B. Refocus our minds on the things of the Spirit (5-8)

1. Contrast the life of the flesh and Spirit (5)

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

2. Consequences of the flesh and the Spirit (6)

6 For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

3. Carnal minded are at war with God (7,8)

7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

III. Freedom comes when we focus on Christ's presence Romans 8:9-11;Acts 2:25-28

A. The Spirit is the seal of authenticity Romans 8:9

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

B. The Spirit will be the power to resurrect our dead bodies Romans 8:10,11

10 And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

C. The promise of His presence in the resurrection Acts 2:25-28

25 For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.

Conclusion

I. Freedom comes when we focus on Christ's work, not our failures.

II. Freedom comes by refocusing our minds.

III. Freedom comes when we focus on Christ's presence.