

## Weekly Prayer Strategy (16 – 23 April 2017)

This week's prayer strategy is based on the message by Paul Nyamuda entitled, A Portrait of Freedom. There are 3 prayer points.

### Prayer Point 1:

- Pray that God brings to remembrance all those things Jesus has said to you, including prophecies and revelation you have heard from the Word. The disciples had been told by Jesus that He would rise from the dead but they had forgotten.
- Pray that any sign of death in your life would be eradicated and that you would have the revelation that death can no longer hold you in its grip.

### Luke 24:1-12

Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them,<sup>[a]</sup> came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.<sup>2</sup> But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.<sup>3</sup> Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.<sup>4</sup> And it happened, as they were greatly<sup>[b]</sup> perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.<sup>5</sup> Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?<sup>6</sup> He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,<sup>7</sup> saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"

<sup>8</sup> And they remembered His words.<sup>9</sup> Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.<sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles.<sup>11</sup> And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.<sup>12</sup> But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying<sup>[c]</sup> by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

### Acts 2:23-24 Berean Study Bible

He was handed over by God's set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. 24But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for Him to be held in its clutches.

This is the basis of my freedom

### New International Version

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

### New Living Translation

**But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.**

**English Standard Version**

**God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.**

**Romans 8:2**

**because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.**

**NLT**

**And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death**

**Romans 8:11**

**The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.**

**Acts 4:33**

**And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.**

The word witness means testimony or evidence. Are you giving evidence of the resurrection by the great power you operate in?

The good news is that this resurrection life is at work in me. This is the basis for my freedom. Death cannot hold me down.

**Etymology Freedom - "power of self-determination, state of free will; emancipation from slavery, deliverance;"**

**Application of Freedom in New Testament**

- 1. freedom from the dominion of corrupt desires, so that we do by the free impulse of the soul what the will of God requires:**

2. Liberty to do or to omit things having no relation to salvation, from the yoke of the Mosaic law,
3. freedom of speech, confidence, boldly, plainly, openly, publicly

In Christ we have freedom. We are free to live from resurrection life. Declare it as an affirmation.

*Free to choose; free to associate; free to obey God; free to love; free to forgive; free to change your mind; free to change directions; free to change habits; free to start new habits; free to be joyful; free to choose our attitude; free to choose your friends; free to choose your spouse; free to prosper; free to learn.....If you say you are free then why do you change when someone walks in?*

## Prayer Point 2

- **Pray that God gives the church the revelation that the same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in us too.**
- **Pray that we walk in freedom in all aspects of our lives as mentioned above. May we realise that we are free to choose, free to love, free to forgive.....**
- **Pray that God shows you what is possible now that you have resurrection life at work in you.**
- **Pray that God helps us to NOT pursue freedom from the counterfeit places but to see that true freedom is only found in Christ.**

## I. What does freedom look like to you?

People are desperate for freedom. There is a quest to break free. Eg Queen in 1984

*I want to break free, I want to break free  
I want to break free from your lies  
You're so self-satisfied I don't need you  
I've got to break free, God knows  
God knows I want to break free*

Bob Marley was also passionate in his quest for freedom. Redemption song:

*Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery  
None but ourselves can free our minds  
Have no fear for atomic energy  
'Cause none of them can stop the time  
How long shall they kill our prophets  
While we stand aside and look? Ooh  
Some say it's just a part of it  
We've got to fulfill the Book*

*Won't you help to sing  
These songs of freedom?  
'Cause all I ever have  
Redemption songs  
Redemption songs  
Redemption songs*

The sad thing is they look for counterfeits. The world today has a picture of freedom. They are trying to break free from many things:

Teenager wanting to break free from parents or school rules

Husband wanting to break free from wife

Nations wanting to break free from colonial masters

Innately there is something in us that is looking for dominion yet remains dominated outside of Christ. You can get independence politically but still be enslaved by your sin.

### **Eph 1:3**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**

*Real freedom is a life that has been liberated from the love of the self—idolatry—and redirected to the love of our Savior—glorious, unimaginable freedom!*

### **Col 2:9-10**

**For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form. 10And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.**

### **NLT**

**So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.**

### **English Standard Version**

**and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.**

### **Berean Study Bible**

**And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.**

Everything we are looking for elsewhere we can find in Christ.

Meaning, happiness, significance, acceptance, belonging, confidence, security, peace, dignity, comfort, intimacy, strength, hope, fulfillment, purpose.....

When you look for these things in other places it only leads to bondage. They never fill you up. God made you and knows what you need better than you do.

## **II. How are we freed?**

**1. We are freed through being filled with the Holy Spirit**

**2 Corinthians 3:17 ESV**

**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**

**2. We are freed through calling on the Lord in prayer**

**Psalm 118:5**

**Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.**

**3. We are freed through knowing our calling to freedom**

**Galatians 5:13 ESV**

**For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

**4. We are freed through knowing the truth**

**John 8:31**

**So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

The truth you don't know does not set you free.

**5. We are freed through trusting only in Jesus**

**John 8:36**

**So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

**6. We are freed through dying**

**Romans 6:7**

**For one who has died has been set free from sin**

There has to be death to experience resurrection.

**“Now that she had nothing to lose, she was free.”**

**— Paulo Coelho, Eleven Minutes**

**John 12:23-25**

**23 Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

As I reject fleshly life it releases the God kind of life.

## **7. We are freed through believing**

Acts 13:38-39 **ESV**

**Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.**

### **Prayer Point 3**

- **Pray that these 7 keys to walking in true freedom become our lifestyle:**
  - **May we be filled with the Spirit continuously**
  - **May we learn to cry out to God for freedom**
  - **May we know the truth**
  - **May we know that we are called to freedom**
  - **May we trust only in Jesus**
  - **May we be willing to die to self and the flesh**
  - **May we believe**