

FREEDOM FROM SIN



TORBEN SØNDERGAARD

“Freedom from sin”
Torben Søndergaard © 2016

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Preface

This booklet began as a series of informal teachings at a café in Denmark. The teaching series is called “Cafe Talk” and is available online.

This booklet has been written from the transcription of a video called ”Freedom from sin”. Therefore, this booklet is not a complete teaching about the freedom we have in Christ. It is more an introduction and testimony about the power in baptism and freedom we have in Christ. I do have confidence, though, that it will bring freedom to many who are still living as slaves of sin.

I am most thankful to the people helping with transcribing, correcting, and editing the text, making it accessible to and a blessing thousands of readers around the world.

Blessings,

Torben Søndergaard

A life-changing testimony

I want to share an amazing teaching with you. It is short, but it is life changing.

It is a testimony from my own life. I was saved - or started to get saved - on April 5th, 1995. I visited a church, heard the gospel and I repented from sin. Shortly after, I was baptized in water and the Holy Spirit. In spite of all this, I did not live in the freedom that God had for me; I was not free from sin. I experienced receiving a new heart and I experienced that I could not continue sinning. I stopped many of the sins, I was doing, but I was not free.

I first experienced true freedom from sin 6 years after I gave my life to Christ. A real freedom that was so different. It was so strong and amazing as if I was looking back at my life, and I was thinking; “Was I truly saved before?” Was I really born again?” I now experienced a real freedom from sin and that created a new boldness in me. I got a new relationship with God that I had never experienced before. From that day on my life changed.

When I received this revelation and freedom, I was sitting in my office reading Romans chapter 6, 7, and 8. When Reading Romans chapter 6, it just dawned on me: “I am

free”. This is what Christ did! He came, to set us free. When I experienced that revelation, I stood up in my office, looked up and said: “but then I am free, I don’t have to sin anymore. I don’t have to fall every third week or every second week. I don’t have to fall again and again. I am free. I am not under the law anymore. I am free!” When I experienced that revelation it changed my life. I experienced a freedom I had never experienced before.

This freedom took me 6 years to discover and to start to live in. But people I share the gospel with today often experience it immediately. They experience it, when they hear the full gospel and realize what repentance is. Then they know what Jesus has done and they can comprehend what baptism in water is. From the first day, they experience the new birth. From the first day, they experience freedom from sin. And I believe that freedom from sin is where everything should start.

A slave to sin

I want to start reading the words from John chapter 8 where Jesus says: "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin".

I remember many years ago I started smoking. When I smoked the first cigarette, I could control it and just thought it was nice. I did not feel that I was a slave to it. I felt, I was in control. But after a short time smoking, it took control over my life and I became a slave to it. I felt like I needed it! That I needed a cigarette. It started to control me.

Many experience the same when it comes to drugs, alcohol and also watching porn on the internet and other sins. It has taken control over them and they have become slaves to it. People in the world today are slaves to sin, and because they have sinned, they become slaves to it. This is what Jesus is talking about in John 8. And He continues: "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but the Son abides forever". So, everybody who is a slave to sin, does not abide in the house forever, but the Son abides forever. Thus, if the Son frees you, you shall be free indeed".

When I started being saved, after repenting and experiencing the Holy Spirit and baptism in water, I experienced a Law was written in my heart. I knew that I could not go on sinning. I stopped many burdensome sins I was doing. I stopped sleeping with my girlfriend, lying and other things I like doing before. But, I was not free. It was like I could walk in freedom for a few weeks, and then I would fall. I would go for a few weeks again, then I would fall. I felt so condemned again, and again, and again, and I was so fed up with it. What was wrong with me? I had the will to do the right thing, but I felt that I could not do the right thing. Whereas the bad things that I did not want to do, I did. There was a battle inside of me.

When I was a slave to sin, I lived in sin. But I repented in my heart and then wanted to do the right things instead. So my heart did not want to live in sin, but my body was still under the law; I was still not dead with Christ, as the Bible says. I tried, tried, tried and fell. I tried, tried, tried and fell and again. I tried, tried, tried.... fell. I could not be free because there was another law working in my body. A law called “the law of sin”.

Let me I use another example. If I take a small stone and let it go, it will fall. No matter what, it will fall. Suppose, I say: “I do not believe in the law of gravity”? It will still fall. Why? Because it has nothing to do with what I believe and

do not believe. There is a law working called the "law of gravity". In the same way, the Bible is talking about another law, the law of sin and death, which is a spiritual law. What the law does is, that when we sin, we become slaves to sin.

However, when I received a revelation about freedom, it felt like I did not have to fall anymore. I was free. As Jesus says, you shall learn the truth and the truth shall set you free.

What does the Bible teach?

I want to tell how it works. First, there has been a lot of misunderstandings about what the Bible says in Romans chapter 6, 7 and 8. Paul in Romans chapter 7 verse 14 says, "I am carnal, sold under sin." This verse is not about the normal Christian life. What Paul talked about here was how it was living as a Jew, a Pharisee, who knew the law by heart and wanted to do the right thing, but not being in Christ. He was not free from sin. This was what I experienced for a few years. I wanted to do the right thing, but I could not. Why? Because I did not walk in the freedom that Christ has for me.

Now, some teach that what Paul talks about in Romans 7 is the normal Christian life, where he says; "I'm carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing I do not understand. For what I want to do, I do not practice and what I hate, I do". Now, I was living like that for 6 years, and many people are living like that today. They want to do the right thing, but they cannot because they feel bound. They are slaves to sin. But Jesus came to set them free. Jesus came to set us free from not being under the Law of sin anymore.

And I believe that there is a lot of wrong teachings in the churches today. There are lots of wrong teachings out there when it comes to freedom from sin. And in many ways, people are so easily deceived. Denmark is a Lutheran country and the teaching is Lutheran. They teach that we continue sinning for the rest of our lives. That is because we are bound to sin and we can never become free from it. But this is not what the Bible says. This is not the normal Christian life.

Jesus came as the Lamb of God to remove our sins. He came to forgive us and He came to set us free. To forgive us means that He does not overlook our sins anymore. No, He came to remove it. To set us free, so we do not need to be slaves to sin anymore. We are free. Free not to sin!

Jesus came to set us free. He is the Lamb of God who is going to remove the sins of the world. How does He set us free from sin? Through baptism in water. When we recognize we have sinned against God, we turn away from our sins and are baptized to Jesus Christ. We then die with Christ and we rise with Christ. It is that simple. That amazing freedom is what many people experience today when we baptize them.

For me, when I was baptized, I did not experience the freedom right away. Why? Because nobody told me about the freedom. Nobody was teaching me what baptism truly was. I was baptized, but I did not understand the full meaning of baptism and repentance, and therefore I did not live in that freedom. But when I later studied Romans chapter 6, I then saw what baptism really is. When I had the revelation I immediately started to live in that freedom. From that moment on I was free.

We are free from sin, because "when we are baptized into Christ, we die with Christ, and we rise with Christ". We bury the old body that was under the law, under sin. When we bury the old body, we are no longer slaves to sin. With baptism in water, we die with Christ and we rise up with Christ.

Paul talks about that freedom from sin in chapter 6 and in verse 14 he says: "Sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under the law, but under grace". This is the revelation I received and went: "Whoa! Then I don't have to live in sin anymore. Sin has no dominion over me. This means that I'm free". Why? Because I am not under the law anymore. I am not under the law of sin like a stone under the law of gravity. We are free, so, sin has no dominion over us.

Now, freedom does not mean that we do not experience temptation. Freedom does not mean that we cannot do something wrong. But then we repent. And we are free not to do the same sin again, and again, and again. We are truly free.

I wish that I could just hand you this revelation and say "here it is, just take it", but you have to receive it in faith. And you have to understand what it is. I just want to say, find Romans chapter 6, read it through, again and again, and again. This is the normal Christian life for you. You are free. Sin has no dominion over you because you are not under the law but under grace.

What now?

If you are from the Lutheran or the Catholic background, where they do not practice biblical baptism, you probably have not heard this teaching before. You have heard teachings like: “you are a slave to sin and you continue being a slave to sin the rest of your life”. Why do they teach this? Because this is their personal experience as they do not practice biblical baptism. They do not have any other experience than being a slave to sin. They still need to repent and get baptised to Christ on their own faith to receive their freedom.

There are also many people, who are baptized biblically with full immersion, who does not live in the freedom. If that's you, then read Romans chapter 6 thoroughly again and again. Understand that this is how you should live. That this is the normal life. Then receive that revelation and experience the freedom. Your life will be changed as my life was and like many other people's lives.

Again, if you are not baptized on your own faith with full immersion you cannot receive this revelation. Or if you were baptized because of tradition and not after repentance of sins. Then you need to be baptized for the first on your own faith, and when you are baptized and come out of the water, then you can live in it.

So, here is what I want to say: read Romans 6 and let the Word change your life. Experience the freedom that I and many others have experienced and live in.

God bless you.