



Free In the Spirit?

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It goes something like this:

I am free in the Spirit because Jesus died to set me free. He set me free from the laws of the Old Testament that no longer bind me. I do not have to keep the commandments that are listed in the Old Testament because I am a New Testament Believer, not a Jew. To keep the laws written in the Old Testament is going back under the law and giving up my faith in Christ so that I will be condemned by trying to do this because I can't keep them; they are too hard!

People often ask: "How is being "Messianic" different than what I believe, from a main stream traditional Christian perspective?"

I might say, we believe the whole Word is still true and valid for us all today.

They say, yes, I believe that, too.

I might say that we believe that the whole Word is true, inspired by God, from Genesis to Revelation. And add that we believe that this is one of the ways He reveals Himself to us; providing the general information that all who follow Him need to know.

Yes, I believe that the whole Bible is true and inspired by God. Paul told us that in his letter to Timothy, right there in the New Testament!

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

Ok, you believe that all Scripture is inspired by God, both Old and New Testaments.

Great! Then why aren't you doing what He said to do: honoring His weekly Shabbat or keeping the holidays/Feasts that He commanded His people to keep? That is part of honoring/guarding/keeping His Whole Word, from Genesis to Revelation. We do try to work from His Word to confirm any understanding we have.

Oh, Jesus said they aren't for us today. They are only for the Jews. They are the ones who never accepted Christ so they have been put away from God and He has accepted us in their place. I am free in the Spirit! We have new days to worship and have holidays that were added later.

So you believe that Jesus came to set you free from the Jews and their law?

Yes, He came to set us free to live by the Spirit! We don't have to be constrained by what God had said before when we are in the new church that Jesus established.

So you don't believe that Jesus and the Father are one and the same?

Yes, I believe that!

I and the Father are one." John 10:30

If you do believe they are One then, it should be obvious that the Son would say what the Father says because they are One in understanding and purpose and character and plan to say the least.

Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, that they may see the glory You gave Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world. John 17: 24

Well, I think I agree there! But my family and my church have always said that Jesus changed things.

What do you do with these Words?

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1: 1-3 KJV

Jesus is the WORD. He has been with God and IS God from the beginning. And God says that He doesn't change, ...

6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; Malachi 3:6 NASB

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Numbers 23:19 ESV

Well, yes, I agree with those things, but Jesus is God so couldn't He have changed things if He wanted to? I'm feeling confused!

By the way, we do agree with the traditional Christian creeds that declare that the Holy Spirit is together with and proceeds from the Father and the Son. So they are one as well. Do you?

Yes.

And do you remember Jesus' prayer, which is called the High Priestly prayer, in which He asks that we all become as one with Him as He is with the Father?

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; [21](#) That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. [22](#) And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: [23](#) I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. John 17: 21-23 KJV

Yes, I've seen this.

And we do agree with traditional Christian teaching per multiple Scriptures that our God is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing) and omnipresent (in all places at all times.) Do you?

Yes.

But you think that God changed His mind about how He wanted His people to live by sending Jesus? That He decided He made a mistake?

Yes, He saw that the law was too hard for us to do so He freed us from it through Jesus. He gave us freedom and liberty!

*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
2 Cor. 3:17 KJV*

You believe then, that God made a mistake and fixed it. If I thought my God could make a mistake it would really frighten me!

But let's look at a few more things.

Well, you do know, don't you, that the plan for Jesus to come in the flesh to die to atone for our sin was established long ago, long before the first century,

before the foundation of the world was laid? It is noted in Genesis as a prophecy:

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
Genesis 3:15*

This is confirmed in the New Testament as well.

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. Colossians 1:17

*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. Acts 2:23*

*19but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot. 20**He was known before the foundation of the world**, but was revealed in the last times for your sake. 21Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him; and so your faith and hope are in God.... 1 Peter 1:19-21 Berean Study Bible*

*1On many past occasions and in many different ways, **God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds**;
Hebrews 1:1-2*

And do you know that when Jesus was asked where His teaching came from, He said it was not His own?

*So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.
John 7: 16 ESV*

His teachings are one with the Father because HE is one with the Father. He revealed in the flesh more of the Father but he didn't change anything.

I guess my family and my church have said that somehow Jesus was nicer than the Father, or at least nicer to the Gentiles than He was to the Jews, but I still always thought I believed that they are one, and in agreement.

This is another way we are different from the mainstream traditional Christian teaching, in that we think He really IS one with the Father and that He only taught the perfect Law of God. Because He was with the Father from the Beginning and was at Mount Sinai and He IS the Lawgiver. We see no reason to change what was given that was good! We don't think God can make mistakes.

For I give you sound teaching; do not abandon my instruction. Proverbs 4:2

As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him. 2 Samuel 22:31

God already knew long ago that people would try to say that His Word was “too hard” to follow and He already addressed it:

11For this commandment I give you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. 12It is not in heaven, that you would need to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it for us and proclaim it, that we may obey it?”... Deuteronomy 30:11-12 Berean Study Bible

Ok, so the law is from the Father and He says it isn't too hard, but I don't think it applies to me because I'm not a Jew. I'm a New Testament believer!

So you probably never knew that the first Believers in Jesus were all Jewish. (They weren't called “Christians” until years later.) Not all rejected Him! Nor did they reject His Law/Torah. They acknowledged, kept and guarded both. This truth has not been clearly acknowledged for centuries. If you look with eyes to see, you will see more than this one reference to this fact.

*And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how **many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,** Acts 21:20 ESV*

And by the way, I'd always suggest reading more of each reference to get full context, and looking at the original definitions from the Hebrew, rather than relying on just the English. If you have ever learned a foreign language, you will know that it isn't always easy to find the way to state the concepts in a different language in a way that truly represents the original thought.

RECAP:

- **Jesus is God and has been the same from the Beginning.**
- **He only taught what the Father did.**
- **He does not change.**
- **He does not lie.**

- His Word is sound and perfect. We are told not to abandon His instructions.
- The Father, Son and the Spirit are One in purpose, character, plan.
- He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.
- His Word/commandments are not too difficult or beyond our reach.
- First century followers of Jesus believed in Him and kept the law written in the Old Testament, recognizing Him as the Living Word as well as the Written Word, from the beginning.

So please tell me again, why you believe He changed how He wants us to live, and we don't need to follow all of His Word, from the beginning?

I believe it because my family and my church say so, and because He said that He came to free us from the law!!!

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Cor 3:17

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1

Ok, free from what? How did Paul describe it?

23But I see another law at work in my body, warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me. 24What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I serve the law of God, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.... Romans 7:23-25 Berean Study Bible

We see that Paul says that through Jesus we are freed from the law of sin and death; which is the principle at work in our bodies that when we sin, the wages of sin is death. HalleluYah!!! We are free from being condemned to death when we sin by looking to what Jesus did for us.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

He set us free from "the yoke of slavery," referring to being in bondage to sin.

But isn't that the same thing as the whole Law in the Old Testament because the Old Testament God is full of wrath and vengeance?

No, it isn't the same. How could the Law of God which is described as perfect and sound, and so many other good things, especially in Psalm 119, suddenly become wrong, said to be a "yoke of slavery," and no longer needed when He said it was for our good and instruction not to be abandoned?

As in the Scripture you referenced earlier, have you realized that Paul wrote this when the only thing known as Scripture was what we call the Old Testament?

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. ² Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

This is part of what is different when we say that we believe the Whole Word is valid and for us today, not just the New Testament. It is all of Scripture, from the beginning, that describes how His people are to behave and live.

This can't be right! He wants me to be free!

Yes, He wants you to be free in Him, free from sin!!! But not free to do whatever you want.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 1 Peter 2:16

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13

Oh, this is strange! I never saw this in the New Testament before! if I am now a slave to God, what does it mean to live in freedom in Him or to be free in the Spirit then?

There are many Scripture references about it not being possible to love and honor two masters. It is more well recognized that this is in reference to love of money vs. love of God. But it is also about what you are doing in your freedom.

Do you understand Jesus to be the Great Shepherd?

Yes.

Do you understand that sheep want to go their own way but don't really see the whole picture and may not recognize danger?

Yes.

Do you understand that a Shepherd guards and keeps His sheep by using fences and his staff?

Yes.

Do you understand, too, that He has good reason that many Scripture references have sheep and Shepherd models to represent how He relates to us?

Yes, I think so.

Do you understand that in His Word, God repeatedly says there are two ways: the way of sin and death or the way to life; the unclean and clean, the holy (set apart- and the unholy, the righteous and the unrighteous?

Yes. I see that. So what?

So when we are saved and accept Jesus death and resurrection on our behalf, it means that we now have the debt for our sin paid for by the One we now freely choose to serve and obey. The Giver and Sustainer of Life! We don't have to obey or be slaves to sin anymore.

*...19I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to escalating wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. 20**For when you were slaves to sin, you were free of obligation to righteousness.** 21What fruit did you reap at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The outcome of those things is death....
Romans 6:19-21*

Paul confirms that when we are slaves to sin, we were free of the obligation to be righteous.

We are free to sin or we are free to obey God and learn to walk in His paths of righteousness.

No other choices are given in the Word except that we are free to choose which "Master" we serve.

Wow! I don't think that was ever clear to me!

What does the Word say about being righteous?

I don't know. I never really thought about it because I am free in the Spirit. That is an Old Testament concept that I don't need to be concerned about.

Even those who don't believe have probably heard Psalm 23 at one time or another. Believers often cling to it as a life verse and comfort at a death:

*23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he **leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
Psalm 23: 1-3*

Here is a comment on what it means to be righteous from a traditional Christian perspective website:

Dictionaries define *righteousness* as "behavior that is morally justifiable or right." Such behavior is characterized by accepted standards of morality, justice, virtue, or uprightness. The Bible's standard of human righteousness is God's own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word. Thus, God's laws, as given in the Bible, both describe His own character and constitute the plumb line by which He measures human righteousness."¹

Yes! This we agree on! But then you will likely ask,

But didn't Jesus end the need for righteousness because of what He did? His righteousness became ours!

For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4

Here is another point of difference in what it means to consider the Whole Word true and valid for today. When you take into account all the words in the Psalms and many Old Testament references as well as New Testament ones, it comes together as one teaching; one God who doesn't change. His teachings haven't changed. His goal is the same for His people: back to the garden and His Tree of Life!

*The **fruit of the righteous is a tree of life**, And he who is wise wins souls.
Proverbs 11:30*

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/righteousness.html>

*'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of **the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.**' Revelation 2:7*

*Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that **they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.** Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. Revelation 22:14-15*

But wait! This English translation of Romans 10:4 does sound like it is saying that the law and righteousness are done with in Jesus.

That's what I thought!

However....have you ever heard the expressions...”the end goal””to the end that”.....? It has been misunderstood to mean “putting an end” to what God has called perfect and unchanging. By letting Scripture interpret Scripture and looking at the Whole Word, and understanding the wider spectrum of the use of that phrase, we see it more accurately means that Messiah is the goal or purpose toward which righteousness leads.

*14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming. 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head.** Ephesians 4:14-15
Berean Study Bible*

To be righteous is to honor what God's laws given in the Bible say. Jesus, our Great Shepherd, has saved us from the yoke of bondage to sin, but He doesn't just say, now do whatever you want! We are now under His staff, which when laid across the shoulders becomes a yoke.

We are yoked with Him, as the stronger one of the two of us, to lead us and shepherd us through life, choosing His way, not kicking against the goads of His direction. (See our teaching on the shepherd's staff as yoke.)

As far as being freed from the Jews, that is not taught anywhere in Scriptures. Rather, it is taught that being accepted into His family of Israel, by faith, for both Jew and Gentile is our goal.

*11Therefore remember that formerly you who are Gentiles in the flesh and called uncircumcised by the so-called circumcision (that done in the body by human hands)— 12remember that **at that time you were separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.** 13But*

now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.... Ephesians 2:11-13 Berean Study Bible

You are either grafted into His family, which is Israel, by faith, or you are outside His family. This is referred to in multiple places. In this, too, we are different from the traditional mainstream Christian teachings, many of which believe that the Gentile church has replaced the Jews as His people. (Often called Replacement Theology)

I haven't heard that term, but now that you say so, I see how the idea matches what I've been told. But it is weird to me to think about being grafted into Israel. I just see my connection with Jesus! How is this important for us to know today?

Adopted children don't usually tell their new adoptive parents the right way to live, but rather learn from their parents how to follow their ways. We, too, are to learn from being yoked with the Great Shepherd, through His Spirit, how to follow after Him, in God's ways, which are the same as Jesus' ways. If we think we are being told to do something by the Spirit that would cause us to not guard His commands it is not of the Spirit of the same God.

And we are joyful to have been freed from the yoke of the flesh and sin that takes us away from Him...and joyful to be yoked to Him!

15That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. 16I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Greek. 17For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."... Romans 1:15-17

Yes, but didn't God say that He would write new laws on our hearts with Jesus?

Not quite: Here is the prophecy that this would happen from the Old Testament:

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33 ESV*

And here is the confirmation from the New Testament:

*"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,**" Hebrews 10:16 ESV*

He said He would put HIS law, not “a new law,” which is better translated as “Righteous teachings” than it is by our English word “law”...His Law that is perfect, that never changes will go from being provided on tablets of stone, which is also a metaphor and picture for our hearts of stone when we are still slaves to sin, to being written in our hearts, making them hearts of flesh, desiring to seek Him. It doesn't say that He changed the law...and Jesus didn't say that either.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. Matthew 5:17 ESV

The words translated as “abolish” and “fulfill” come from an ancient rabbinic teaching method. Those who studied with a teacher would follow the teacher. Discussions would be started by questions as to how the Word is to be understood. When an interpretation was given that did not honor the character of God, the teacher said that the student had abolished the law, in other words, diminished and tarnished the character of God. When an interpretation was given that did honor the character of God, the teacher declared that the student had fulfilled the Law/Word.

Jesus IS the LAW, both the written and the living Word, who was with God from the beginning and who is God. He did not come to change His mind. He did not come to malign the character of God, but to rightly interpret it. The written or the living law/word will never malign God.

Saying that-- “His Word is no longer needed,” or “His law is a trap we had to be delivered from, it's too hard for us”...all of these things tarnish the character of God and say that He is NOT infallible, that He DID change, that He DID lie.

Oh! I would never want to question the character of God! Have I really been doing that???

If we believe any of these things, I'd say we are in deep trouble, because if He isn't steadfast and can lie or change, we have no assurance of salvation!

So yes, we can be free in the spirit; the spirit of the Living God to follow after Him and walk in His ways,

But no, we are not “free in the spirit” to do whatever the flesh wants to do, or not to guard His commands and give priority to our wishes or fears or what someone else says to us.

But I am used to praying and talking with others who pray and hear from the LORD to determine how the Spirit is leading us. He has given us this freedom in the Spirit, hasn't He? How could that be a problem? It's good, isn't it?

Well, it can be very good if those you pray and talk with are also aware of the distinctions of what sin actually is and our freedom being to walk after Him in His ways, free from the bondage and wages of sin in death.

But it is not so good if you all **ONLY** pray and talk and do not go back to check whatever they might hear against what the Word says. Unfortunately, this is a problem for both mainstream churches as well as Messianic assemblies.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20

...20Do not treat prophecies with contempt, 21but test all things. Hold fast to what is good. 22Abstain from every form of evil.... 1 Thessalonians 5: 20-22 Berean Study Bible

Aren't you being legalistic if you think what I hear in the Spirit has to be supported by what is in the written Word?

No, we are trying to be diligent and careful with the Whole Word of God and with the Whole aspect of revelation: both the general revelation of Who He is and His instructions to us in the Written Word as well as listening to any special revelation given in prayer or what is called "words of knowledge" by many evangelical mainstream Christian groups. To "test" something means to see if what has been understood is consistent with ALL of God's Word to us. If it isn't, it isn't from Him. He is not a man that He would lie. We don't believe He changed His mind. He wants us to walk in His paths of righteousness.

Testing sounds like comparing what I think I am understanding with what is written in the Word. If anything I think I understand is contrary to His teachings, then it can't be right.

Yes! We are back to the concept of righteousness then, definition provided above, which is what the Father, the Son and the Spirit are united in as being our goal. To know that His righteousness literally means to walk in His ways is confirmed in both Old Testament and New Testament references. It also means knowing what Sin is.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4 ESV

"Nomia" is a Greek word for Law. To make something the opposite or against in Greek, you add an "a" so "anomia.""Lawlessness" is translated from that

Greek word *anomia* which could also be translated as being without the law, anti-nomianism. Numerous studies have confirmed that it is referring to God's Law, the Torah. So being without His teachings is sin. If anything that one hears in prayer or from another person as being from the Spirit proves not to match up with the primary concepts of Scripture, it is not from the true Living God.

If any "word" encourages one to disregard His commands as to how we are to live, it is sin and not to be followed. It is not freedom to just sin and trust that we are forgiven!

Paul addresses this within his letter to the Romans.

*1What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?
Romans 6:1 Berean Study Bible*

In our community we say that: ***His grace is for when we fall short, not for when we aim short!*** This is because the literal meaning of the root word for "Torah" is "yarah" meaning to "hit the mark," while "sin" is to 'miss the mark" as in target shooting.

Oh. I didn't know that. It sort of fits!

RECAP

So if I understand then, you are saying that this is another way it is different to believe in the Whole Word of God as true for today...

- that we remember that He is the same from age to age,
- that He said He wouldn't change or lie.
- We consider all of His commands, as from the Father so from the Son, from the beginning, and
- use them to test whether or not what we think we are being told in the Spirit matches.
- If what I think I hear or someone tells me is from God and I find that it would lead me NOT to observe His Word, then I should NOT take that as freedom in the Spirit to do it?

Correct, that is what we believe! And if that source proves to be false and not in line with Scripture then we are to consider them false and stay clear of them! If they take correction and are willing to test the Spirits against the Word for validation, then there can be restoration! HalleluYah! We are free in Him from the penalty of death being the wages of sin when we repent and turn back to Him.

We are free to choose to honor and obey our Master, the Living God instead of the law of sin at work in our bodies. We are NOT free to do whatever we want, just as it was in the days of Judges when we can see how far off base they went when the “mantra” was:

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25

This can be very difficult to understand because it can be construed as being “too hard” or “too rigid” as you said earlier. That is from a strictly human perspective of the things that we find difficult to do as we come into obeying His Whole Word. We have found that the evil one likes to confound and confuse people over what “freedom in the Spirit” really means.

Anytime we think that obeying YHWH’s commands brings us trouble or loss of freedom, we have the wrong focus. To cast off His commands is to obey the other master, the unholy one.

His commands are a staff and yoke to freedom in Him and light and truth and so much more, all good!

It is the demands of the world that make it hard for us to obey, especially in the matter of honoring His commands to guard the Sabbath and Shabbatans...old Pharaoh in modern garb, cracking his whip and telling us to work and work to make more bricks with less straw so that we won’t take time or have the energy or heart to obey God’s commands.

May our hearts be tender toward our Shepherd and all of His commands that are intended for our good as He leads us back to the Father.

Do you see the difference between believing only the New Testament is valid today from believing the Whole Word is still true and valid?

We don’t have to fall for the idea of division, that we have to choose between the Old and the New Testament God. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are fully in unity! What we have called the Old Testament is a shadow of the substance of Messiah...it points us in the right direction, but the greater fullness and full color comes into focus when we move from the Shadow to the Substance.

We need to be careful not to be tricked, as we mature in Messiah, to recognize that freedom that would take us out from His path is not freedom but that old bondage to sin, in the flesh, the world or the devil.

We don't have to fall for the idea that we are somehow freed from what He said was good and for our good! May it never be.

They are One and the Same and do not change!

Back to the beginning, one more time!

~~I am free in the Spirit because Jesus died to set me free. He set me free from the laws of the Old Testament that no longer bind me. I do not have to keep the commandments that are listed in the Old Testament because I am a New Testament Believer, not a Jew. To keep the laws written in the Old Testament is going back under the law and giving up my faith in Christ so that I will be condemned by trying to do this because I can't keep them; they are too hard!~~

I am free in the Spirit because Jesus died to set me free from the law--the principle of sin and death: that the wages of sin are death. He upholds the Torah: The Law, the Prophets and the writings and said He did not come to abolish or speak against them. The Old Testament is the foundation for the New Testament; they are not in opposition. He has already confirmed in His Word that it is not too hard for us. When I receive Him, I am grafted into the family of Believers, God's family, Israel. This is also true for those of Jewish bloodline, who also need to be grafted back in to their own tree by faith in Messiah. I do need to walk after Him in Spirit and in Truth, obeying the commandments He provided for us. We recognize that some commandments apply only to certain groups of people and some apply only when one is living in a Torah centered society, but we make good faith efforts to honor His directions while we are yet awaiting a full return to the Land He selected. Keeping His commandments is how we express our love to Him; hear and obey! The freedom He bought for me means that I am free to follow after Him, and need no longer be bound to sin. I do still need to test everything that is said or experienced in prayer against the Foundation of His truths so that I walk freely on His paths of righteousness, not on paths of my own.

Amen! = May it be so!

If you have any further questions or would like to see more material like this, please check out our website at <https://www.set-apart-ministries.org> or contact us at (920) 634-2760.