

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – August 29, 2021

Theme: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit gives us liberty

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 3:1-17, Romans 8:1-4.

Key verse: 2 Corinthians 3:17 *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty”*(NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Merriam Webster Dictionary defines “Liberty” as *the quality or state of being free. It connotes the power to do as one pleases or freedom from restraint.* The scope of liberties is wide – natural liberty, civil liberty, political liberty, religious liberty, etc. However, the Greek word translated “liberty” in 2 Corinthians 3:17 means *“personal freedom from servitude, confinement, or oppression.”* This liberty was prefigured in several Old Testament passages. First was the Jubilee (Year of Release): *“And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family”* (Leviticus 25:10). Then there was the promise of removal of the oppressor’s yoke: *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.”* (Isaiah 10:27). So, at the appointed time, Jesus declared *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me, to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed* (Luke 4:18 NKJV).

1. **(a) Discuss your understanding of Christian liberty in the light of Leviticus 25:10; Isaiah 10:27 and Luke 4:27. (b) Read Mk 3:1-5 and 7:1-5; John 8:32, 36. How would you reconcile the liberty from the Holy Spirit with other liberties?**

Jesus came to set us free spiritually. That is the point He made in John 8:36, *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* And because the Holy Spirit would glorify Jesus, it made sense that an important work of the Holy Spirit is to give liberty to the believer. This liberty transcends other liberties. So, in 2 Corinthians 3:1-17, Apostle Paul gives us a background to the nature of the liberty the Spirit gives. In 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, Apostle Paul contrasts the Old Covenant and the New Covenant to highlight this liberty we have through the Holy Spirit. First is that though the Law itself is holy (Romans 7:12), it brought death, whereas the Holy Spirit produces eternal life. Secondly, the ministry of the Law brought condemnation. However, God declares righteous those who believe in His Son, and then the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to live righteously. And lastly, the ministry of the Law is passing while the ministry of the Spirit remains. And so, Romans 8:2 says, *“for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death”*. Everyone who trusts in Christ for salvation is gifted with the Holy Spirit who gives complete liberty. That is what our key verse today affirms that *“the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”* (2 Corinthians 3:17).

2. **Read Romans 8:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:7-11. (a) Which of the contrasts between the Old Covenant of the Law and that of the New Covenant of the Spirit best encourages you and why? (b) How would you explain what it means to be free from sin and death? (c) How does Romans 6:18 further help your explanation of (2b)?**

Now, we are free to grow in a life of righteousness. This liberty is not for personal indulgence. It is for service of the Lord. Disappointingly, many in the Body of Christ interpret this liberty in the Spirit as do as one pleases. But this liberty should lead us as Romans 6:18 says *“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”* It should not be a cover for decadence (1 Peter 2:16). Or as Apostle Paul warned *“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another”* (Galatians. 5:13).

3. **Read Romans 6:18; 1 Corinthians 8:9; 9:19; Galatians 5:13 (a) What should be a correct evidence of the believer’s liberty through the Holy Spirit? (b) According to 1 Corinthians 9:19, what can happen if this liberty is misapplied? (c) What one lesson have you learnt from this study today and how will you apply it in the coming week?**

Prayer: *Father, thank You for the liberty that is mine through Your Holy Spirit. Help me to live conscious of this freedom, free from self-striving for my justification and in my service to You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*