

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Title: Saved But Bound

Introduction

Sin is a state or position we are born in as well as a condition because of our lifestyles

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me”
(Psalm 51:5).

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Sinful lifestyles separate us from God

- When we are saved, we are saved from the state of sin. We are born again, sinners saved by grace.
- Our sinful nature now gives way to holy and righteous living but we are not perfect.

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:12-13).

- We have to deal with daily with the sinful lifestyle
- We need deliverance from the bondages of sinful habits, practices and appetites.

Consider Israel at the time of Moses

“3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12: 3, 5-7, 13).

- The man is called to be the head of his house and he is to be the spiritual leader
- The blood speaks of a life given to pay for the price of sin.

“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

“The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29).

- Saved and forgiven but not free from the old lifestyle of sinful habits and appetites.

Israel's craving

“4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!” (Numbers 11:4-6)

We must be saved from our state and condition of sin

- To be free from the condition of sin is a process
A “wilderness” experience helps use lose the “Egypt” in us

“11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed” (Hebrews 12:11-13).

- “What is lame needs to be healed”
Trust, forgive and love by the grace of God
The Holy Spirit our Helper, Comforter and Advocate can help us

Lazarus and his grave clothes

“42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go” (John 11:42-44).

- Lazarus was a made alive but bound
 - The disciples set him free.
 - Today the Church plays an effective role.

“11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

- We are saved from being a sinner – this was our state
 - When we were sinners we learned sinful habits
 - People who sinned against us left a mark of bad attitudes towards others and life itself
 - We are saved but bound

Liberation is a Process

It is a difficult task to help set people free

- Instead of being appreciated, the victim turns on you and sides with those who abused them in the first place
- Instead of living a life of freedom spiritual and physical poverty, you continue to sin and do wrong
- You need to be set free by a renewed mind
- Accept your new status – bless and blessed to live blessed

Conclusion

We Need to be Weaned

“1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2)

Renew your mind from a slave mentality

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

“18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was” (James 1:18-24).

- Be swift to hear
- Slow to speak and to wrath
- Lay aside all filthiness and wickedness
- Receive with meekness the implanted Word that is able to save you.
- Be a doer of the Word. Trust in the Lord and rejoice

“1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it” (Hebrews 4:1-2).

- You need to develop a new appetite
- Liberty comes with responsibility
- Anger is not the first the human response - Fear is

What do you do with what God gives?

- Let go of what you have, e.g. exhale
- Learn with the renewed mind – change your attitude
- Be fascinated with your future