



I. MESSAGE/SERIES INTRO

A. Intro to the Freedom Series

- For the most part believers are generally headed the right direction
 - We all have a destination that we're headed to – heaven – hopefully
 - But we're on a journey – we're enduring the journey because of the destination

John 10:10 (NKJV) I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- The reason we aren't enjoying the journey is that we might be carrying stuff we're not designed to carry

Galatians 5:1 (MSG) Christ has set us free to live a free life...

- Most of the stuff we carry around comes from one of two places
 - The past
 - People

John 8:31-32 The Message (MSG) ³¹⁻³² Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

II. HOW DID WE END UP WITH THE BAGGAGE?

A. Where did it come from?

- **Unfulfilled expectations**

Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV) ¹² Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life.

- Faith isn't designed to make life easier, it's designed to make the impossible possible.
- **Unresolved pain from the past**

Jeremiah 6:14 (ICB) They try to heal my people's serious injuries as if they were small wounds. They say, 'It's all right, it's all right!' But really, it is not all right.

- **Unhealthy view of self.**

Romans 12:3 (MSG) "The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him."

III. CHECK THE BAGGAGE



A. Out of prison

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV) ³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Ochyroma (okh-oo'-ro-mah); A prisoner locked in by deception. Living life by something that is not true.

B. You'll never experience freedom and if you base your life on a lie

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- Replacing the old thoughts with new

Ephesians 4:22-23 (NIV) ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

C. Here's some new thoughts

- **God can free you.**

Romans 8:1-2 (MSG) ¹⁻² With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

- **God will restore you**
 - Restore you back to the original manufacturers specifications

Psalms 103:5 (NLT) He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

- **God still loves you**

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Without a relationship with Him He can't really do these things

1 John 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.