

**True Gospel : True Freedom (2 of 8)**  
**“Freedom’s Story”**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**August 11, 2019**

**Big Idea:** Freedom comes not from rules or the lack of rules but from a personal relationship with Jesus who loves me and gave His life for me.

“My old self has been **crucified** with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. So I live in this earthly body by **trusting** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **Galatians 2:20 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

**Our Freedom’s Story Includes Three Parts:**

**1. Before We \_\_\_\_\_**

“You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I **violently** persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the **traditions** of my ancestors.” **Galatians 1:13-14 (NLT2)**

“But Saul was going everywhere to **destroy** the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. But the believers who were scattered **preached the Good News** about Jesus wherever they went.” **Acts 8:3-4 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. How We Began A \_\_\_\_\_**

“But even before I was born, **God chose me** and called me by His marvelous grace. Then it pleased Him to reveal His Son to me so that I would proclaim the **Good News** about **Jesus** to the **Gentiles**.” **Galatians 1:15-16a (NLT2)**

“As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you **persecuting me**?” “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am **Jesus**, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” **Acts 9:3-6 (NLT2)**

“Now there was a believer in Damascus named **Ananias**. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord!” he replied. The Lord said, “Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named **Saul**. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.”

**Acts 9:10-12 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**“But Lord,”** exclaimed Ananias, “I’ve heard many people talk about the **terrible things** this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name.” But the Lord said, “Go, for **Saul is my chosen instrument** to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.” **Acts 9:13-16 (NLT2)**

[Paul to Timothy] “I have been reminded of your **sincere faith**, which first lived in your **grandmother Lois** and in your **mother Eunice** and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” **2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)**

“If you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are **saved.**” **Romans 10:9-10 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Now That We \_\_\_\_\_**

“And still the Christians in the churches in Judea didn’t know me personally. All they knew was that people were saying, “The one who used to **persecute** us is now **preaching** the very faith he tried to destroy!” And they praised God because of me. **Galatians 1:22-24 (NLT2)**

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me **faithful**, appointing me to His service. Even though I was **once a blasphemer** and a **persecutor** and a **violent** man, I was shown **mercy** because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The **grace** of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.** But for that very reason I was shown **mercy** so that in me, the **worst of sinners**, Christ Jesus might display his **unlimited patience** as an **example** for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.” **1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **➤ What is your story of faith?**

#### **My next right steps to freedom, I will:**

- [ ] Take the Cross Challenge (wear the Free cross for this series and pray for opportunities)
- [ ] Share my story [email to: [church@cornerstonepoway.com](mailto:church@cornerstonepoway.com)]
- [ ] Read the book of Galatians 3 times this week & make personal notes
- [ ] Follow Jesus in Believer’s Baptism today at Silver Strand – talk to Pastor Ed



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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honors your group’s time commitment]

**Open in Prayer:**

**Icebreaker:**

Sometimes our faith begins by learning from our parents or grandparents and then becomes our personal faith. Sometimes our faith begins from a dramatic experience like Paul. How did you your faith begin?

- **What thoughts from this week’s message encouraged you to share your story?**

A testimony doesn’t need to be long. It is simply your story of how you placed your trust in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection for your salvation. It is your story of knowing Jesus and how God’s grace and mercy is making a difference in you.

**My story of faith in Jesus:**

**1. My life before I knew Jesus was...**

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[samples from others]

- *“I grew up in a Christian home with morals, but I didn’t have a relationship with Jesus.”*
- *“I used to look for happiness in stuff, in acceptance, in people...none of that worked.”*
- *“I was angry and depressed with my life.....” or “My life was filled with shame and fear...”*
- *“I struggled with addiction” or “I spent my whole life trying to be successful and independent.”*

## 2. I asked Jesus into my life when...

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[samples from others]

- *“One day I heard the message of Jesus’ love, forgiveness, and acceptance at church”*
- *“I was at the end of my rope and Jesus was there...”*
- *“Jesus accepted me as I am, a sinner in need of a Savior.”*
- *I understand that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and on the third day He rose from the grave. I have accepted Him into my life to be my Savior.*

*Use one or two verses to point to Jesus as your Savior. Here are some verses you might use.*

**John 3:16 (NIV)** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**Romans 10:9 (NIV)** *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Romans 6:23 (NIV)**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**John 1:12 (NIV)**

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--*

## 3. Because of Jesus, I am growing in my faith...

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[samples from others]

- *“I am in a new relationship with Jesus as I learn to walk in His grace and mercy”*
- *“I now have purpose in my life ... a reason for living”*
- *“I am not perfect. I am learning to be a more loving: husband, wife, father, mother, friend...”*
- *“I am no longer a person who is always angry and bitter...I’m learning forgiveness...”*
- *“Living for Jesus Christ’s purposes has eased the need to be everything on my own. Now I can focus on what matters most to God and let Him take care of what matters to me.”*

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.