

Adopted and Free A Personal Story

(Everyone say) “I am free!” - “We are Free!”

Many thoughts come to mind when we say that statement. We think of America as the freest country on the planet. Free to worship how we choose. Free to work at any vocation we apply ourselves to. We are free, but are we truly free?

Have you ever done something or continue to do something and wonder why I continue to do it? We at times don't think about that struggle as a cage. Anyone controlled by a person, thing, attitude, behavior, or a lifestyle is a slave to that which controls them. Practically speaking it's very similar to a child. A child can't make decisions for themselves. They are governed by their parents. We are their guardians and manage their lives. What can that child do besides what the parent dictates for them to do? What we fail to realize is that the very thing that cages us is sin, and sin is a master at enslaving us.

Paul says in Galatians 4:1-3 “Now I say that as long as the heir is a child, he differs in no way from a slave, though he is the owner of everything. 2 Instead, he is under guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were in slavery under the elements of the world.”

Let me tell you about a little girl. A little girl who at the age of 5, had great loss - loss of her father and her mother. She lost her father from a drug overdose and after the funeral of her father, her mother went MIA. Before that loss, her parents lost custody of her because of the life cage they placed themselves in. Both parents were in caged to a thing, attitude, behavior and lifestyle of drug abuse. This little girl had grown up without her parents, and was raised by her grandmother from the time she was 2 till she was 11 years old. But, she was still without a mom and dad. During her years with grandmom, she had missed out on proper social development and her relationships were very controlling. Every moment of her life was managed because grandmother and extended family did not want her to experience any more suffering. When we get this controlling and manage the lives of our kids, they lose out on the experiences of what God truly intended in a free and loving relationship. We think we know better. God tells us there is a different way.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the Lord's declaration. 9 “For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts..” Isaiah 55:8-9.

BUT, GOD!

He had different plans! There was a family that God had put together for His purposes. A family for adoption. This family has had their struggles and sufferings. This family had learned what it meant to be truly free. God made the way. It says in Galatians 4:4-7

“When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.”

Freedom found in the family!

When this little girl had turned 11 years old, God had been working in the hearts of this family. The father’s heart was turned toward this little girl and as the father and mother spoke about it, it became clear that this little girl had to come home to their family. So before her 12th birthday, the family went to visit the grandmother and shared how, through this plan that God had placed on the hearts of this family, they wanted to take this girl home and make her part of their family. They had chosen her to come home with them to become her dad, mom, brothers and sister! She had been known by the family and is now fully known as part of the family. It was through adoption, spiritual adoption, that she found her freedom. Before she came home with this family, the Gospel was shared with her. She asked the man “Is this why you are so different?” Different from what she had known, different from what she had been exposed to, different from the cages that she had been living in (figuratively speaking).

Known by God!

It is because of Adoption that we live in freedom! “But now, since you know God, or rather have become known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elements (things)? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again?” Galatians 4:9.

This little girl had tasted freedom. Freedom that she experienced and saw in the family before and had questioned “is this the difference.” The difference was the Gospel Life in the life of this family. The Gospel, that at the proper time, had come and set men free. Christ is the difference maker. Crucified for us according to the scripture, being buried and raised on the 3rd day according to the scripture. Yes, He made the difference and freedom for this family was found in being adopted into God’s family. In the same way, that Trinity was known by our family and is now fully known as a daughter of our family. She found real freedom through adoption, spiritual adoption. She also had been chosen by her Heavenly Father and is now part of the permanent family of God!

Truly free!

Then stay and live truly free. Many times through our walk with each other as the family of God we have the tendency to go back to the familiar and comfortable - the things that we were so used to. When Trin came home, she wanted to learn and live differently but it was a struggle.

She was used to Grandmom doing everything for her. So Trin had to learn a new way. She was brought into a new way of living that she had not known. She had to learn and want to change. She learned if she didn't change to live within the healthier boundaries that she was now in, this new way of doing things, she would struggle and get stuck. So through time she learned to adapt, learned to allow the change to happen as she played her part. But, there were many times when she would return to the familiar and comfortable.

We were always present in her life as a reminder of what and how she can live within these safe healthier boundaries. They weren't rules and regulation, per say, but a home of Grace, the place where she can succeed in the family. "The Place Where Grace Is In Place." There are times even today that I ask myself, my kids, and my wife, why do we keep doing these weak and worthless things, the familiar and comfortable things? We don't have to go back to them "We are Free!" - "I AM FREE!" In the same way that Trin found freedom through adoption from the old life she had. We found freedom in adoption into God's family, because we too are free from the old life.

"Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:34 & 36.

We Are A Heir

The amazing part of this whole story is not just that we are free but that we are an heir. We have an inheritance. Trin has full rights as if she is a natural born daughter. Full rights and position as our daughter. We too in the same way are heirs to all that Jesus has.

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:31-32.

He guarantees our inheritance by sending "the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,..." The Holy Spirit in you, if you know Christ Jesus, He is your guarantee, the Hope in you! Let us live as a Free People of God with all confidence of who we are and whose we are!. Be free!