Differentiation #4:  How Can I Know When I Am Free?

1 Corinthians 15:9, 10

Introduction:

1. No person or thing really holds me back. Romans 8:31-39; Philippians 4:19
2. God is able to give me every spiritual blessing, provide every need, and give me more than I ask or think.
3. How can I know when I am growing in receiving His blessings?
4. I am a slave−but I can choose my master. Romans 6:16; Joshua 24:14, 15
5. WHEN I CAN CONSIDER THE EVIDENCE, DETERMINE THE TRUTH, MAKE GOOD CHOICES.
   1. I am free to look at options, consider the consequences. Hebrews 11:24-27
   2. I make decisions on truth−not what others expect, demand from me. Galatians 1:10
6. WHEN I CAN TEACH OTHERS AND GIVE THEM FREEDOM TO DECIDE.
   1. Jesus taught and fed the multitudes.
      1. Many left him. John 6:66
      2. He gave others the same choice. John 6:67-71
7. WHEN I CAN LEARN FROM OTHERS AND NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT EVERYTHING OR REJECT EVERYTHING THEY SAY OR DO. Philippians 2:1-4
   1. Everybody can be my teacher if I will permit them.
      1. People know things I don’t know.
      2. Some people can serve as a bad example. Luke 17:32
   2. Everybody sins.
8. WHEN I KNOW THAT I AM NOT AS BAD OR AS GOOD AS SOME PEOPLE SAY I AM.
   1. Some will try to deflate. Acts 28:1-4
   2. Some will try to inflate. Acts 28:6
   3. When I know I am a sinner , saved by grace. 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 1 Corinthians 15:9,10
   4. When I can forgive and be forgiven. Matthew 6:14, 15; Matthew 18:35
      1. This will include confessing and forsaking my sins. 1 John 1:9
      2. Healing can come when we don't have to keep secrets. James 5:16
9. WHEN I HAVE A LIVING FAITH IN A POWERFUL GOD WHO CAN WORK THROUGH ME.
   1. I am empowered to be what God wants me to be, to do what God wants me to do and not do what others can and need to do. 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7; Philippians 3:12-14; Ephesians 3:20, 21
   2. I don't have to be stuck to limitations. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
   3. I have the opportunity to learn from each person, event, and circumstance−to be free from the control of other people, things, and circumstances. Philippians 4:11-13

Conclusion

1. I can know I am free when I love God, seek His will, and obey Him, regardless of other people or circumstances. Mark 12:30, 31
2. Are you free−or is something holding you back?
3. Who is your master? Romans 6:16-18