

# Free at Last

**Free At Last - Part 4**  
**True Identity**  
**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**6-9-18**

## **USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." **Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child.** And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

### **Galatians 4: 7**

Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And **since you are his child, God has made you his heir.**

### **Galatians 4:8-9**

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—**how is it that you**

**are turning back to those weak and miserable forces ?** Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

### **Galatians 4:15-16**

**Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then?** I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible. Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

### **Galatians 4:21-27**

Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife. The son of the slave wife was born in a **human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise**. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.

These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them. And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law. But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother.

## **5 Identifying Statements of Living a Life of Performance**

**The life of performance eventually settles for less than God's best** as we exhaust ourselves trying to attain something that only comes by grace.

**The life of performance will run ahead of God's timing** when we conclude that God will not come through on our timeline (*impatience will always produce an inferior outcome*).

**The life of performance is a life of comparison to others**, so it will always battle pride and depression.

**The life of performance is a life that is always subject to fear**; fear of not measuring up, fear of not doing enough and fear of failure.

**The life of performance is a life in continual identity crisis** – we don't know who we are, so we spend our lives attempting to prove we have worth.

### **1 Corinthians 5:10**

Today I am who I am because of God's grace, and I have made sure that the grace He offered me has not been wasted. I have worked harder, longer, and smarter than all the rest; but I realize it is not me—it is **God working through me by His grace.**

### **Galatians 4:28-29**

And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit.

### **Galatians 4:30-31**

So what does the Scripture say? **“Throw out the slave and her son, for the slave's son will never have a share of the inheritance coming to the son of the free woman.”** So, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but *sons and daughters* of the free.

### **1 Corinthians 2:12**

**What we have received** is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,

### **1 Corinthians 4:7**

For who makes you different from anyone else? **What do you have that you did not receive?**

### **Romans 8:15-17**

**So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves.** Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

## **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. Have you received an inheritance (monetary or otherwise) from an earthly relative or loved one that has had a significant impact on your life? If so, describe the relationship and what the inheritance has meant to you.
2. Read together Galatians 4:4-7. Considering God has made us sons/daughters – heirs – discuss what benefits and blessings are ours because of this relationship. These aren't listed specifically in the passage, but what has Paul

highlighted in previous chapters? What are benefits of being a son/daughter of God promised in other portions of scripture?

3. Read together verses 8-9. What problem was Paul addressing? What had happened to the believers in Galatia? What were they in danger of doing? What does a spirit of religion look like?
4. We can be tempted in the same way, to return to “those weak and miserable forces” associated with a spirit of religion or old habits/patterns that distanced us from God. What have you been tempted to return to? Have you found victory, and if so, how?
5. Pastor Dave gave five statements of what it’s like to live a life of performance before God instead of resting in the relationship we have with Him. Which of the five statements above resonates the most with what you’ve seen in your life?
6. How do we run hard after God and serve as described by Paul in 1 Cor. 5:10 (above), without falling trap to the spirit of slavery – performance mentality? What’s the key, and how do we keep our focus and heart aligned properly?
7. Pastor Dave encouraged us to find 20 things from scripture this week that God says about us – our identity according to His Word. Begin to build this list as a group and encourage one another with these truths.