

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Government of Freedom July 25, 2023 Suzi Armstrong

To govern is defined by Merriam-Webster Dictionary as to exercise authority and to have decisive influence.

As Believers in Christ, we have declared that Jesus is Lord of our lives. We have said, "Jesus, I want You to have governing authority in my life". Because of the governing authority of Jesus, we are no longer under the bondage of sin – we are no longer slaves to sin. We do not have to obey the government of sin, meaning we can say no to sin. Sin is no longer our master. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. See Romans 6 for more details. We have been set free from the law of sin and death. We operate under a different set of rules. The benefit of the government of God is enormous! We can do everything through Christ in us because we now live, move, and have our being in Christ.

I want to focus on one specific aspect of the government of God – that is **the government of FREEDOM!** Everyone and everything wants to be free. All of creation is groaning for freedom. People groups cry out for freedom, individuals cry out for freedom, Moses went to Pharaoh and said, set the people free – to no longer be slaves. The government of freedom is instilled through the work of the cross.

Luke 4.18 NIV

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. **He has sent me to proclaim freedom** for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

- There is a message of freedom – freedom has a narrative and a sound.
- Many will gather under the cry or declaration of freedom – think of the movie *Brave Heart!*
- Who are the prisoners? We were in bondage – held captive by the impulses of sin and the narrative of the accuser of the brethren, the devil.
- Before you are born again, the primary authority in your life is your sinful nature.
- In the Garden, Adam and Eve forfeited their freedom when they partnered with sin – when they believed the narrative of Satan versus what God had told them.
 - There are many narratives in the earth that want to take you captive, taking away your freedom.
 - There are mind-binding spirits that attack your mind with fear, stress, anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Jesus brings freedom from all witchcraft.

Galatians 5.1 NIV

¹ **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm,** then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- What has Christ freed us to? Free to live.
- Increased capacity to love, to have joy, to experience peace, to enjoy life.

John 8.32 NIV

³² Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**

- Jesus is the Truth. When you know Jesus, you know the Truth.

1 Corinthians 6.17 TPT

¹⁷ **But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

James 1.2-4 NIV

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- Consider, in Greek, means rule over, command, govern, think.
- Perseverance means the power to withstand and refers to the quality of character that does not allow one to surrender to circumstances. It is linked to hope.
- Think about it like this.
 - Apply the government of God through the reality of being seated FAR above powers and principalities. His Kingdom come.
 - Speaking His Word (governing power) brings God's order.
- This is an opportunity to grow and become strong by exercising who you are in Christ – to rule, reign, and co-create the future.
- An occasion for joy. Doing this brings pleasure. Why? It is a demonstration of the new creation life lived in the power of the resurrection of Jesus.

We, the body of Christ, come together as a government of God for our city to proclaim freedom; we make decrees. This is what we do when we prophesy; this is what we do when we preach the word – we are declaring God's sovereign word in the spirit world. Like when Elijah stood before the Lord and said there will be neither rain or dew – so can we stand and decree, let there be no corruption, let there be no violence, let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done, let righteousness prevail. Let truth arise that sets the people free.

The decree of the Lord is His governing word being released into cities and nations, situations and circumstances, and the lives of people causing a governmental shift so that life overcomes death. God is sending forth His scepter of righteousness from Zion.

Isaiah 62.10b NIV

Build up, build up the highway!
Remove the stones.
Raise a banner for the nations.

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

Freedom and liberty come from the Lord. We declare that **where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.** From Dutch Sheets Give Him 15: Forever, oh Lord, Your Word is settled in Heaven (Psalm 119.89). Your words are just as powerful today as they were when You first spoke them. They are alive and powerful (Hebrews 4.12), spirit and life, (John 6.63). They never return void, empty, or fruitless, but always accomplish their assignments (Isaiah 55.11). They are seeds, containing reproductive, multiplicative power (Matthew 13.37, 1 Peter 1.23). Your words produce faith (Romans 10.17), multiplied fruit (Matthew 13.23), and victory in battle (1 Timothy 1.18, Ephesians 6.17). When we speak them, we are not *demanding* from You, but *honoring* You, demonstrating our trust.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to command Your Word in order to produce life, to defeat satan and his plans against our lives, families, states, and nations. We will release them to accomplish the victory of Calvary.

We declare that the gospel will go forth from these shores to every tribe, tongue, and nation on earth. We declare that America exists to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations – and will do so. We declare that as all other kingdoms, systems, anti-Christ plans and activities are shaken down, Your Kingdom will stand. We know that the coming shaking is Your mercy to turn America back to You and Your purposes, in order that hundreds of millions of people here and around the world be saved. We declare that America's borders are protected from every satanic plan to destroy this nation. All of these things we say, ask, and seal in the mighty Name of Jesus.

Amen.