

The Story of Our Freedom Galatians 1:11-24

Your spiritual freedom begins with God's revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11-12

Be careful that no person distorts this fundamental truth. Galatians 1:6-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Be willing to share the story of how the gospel of Jesus has changed your life. Galatians 1:13-24

- **Your pre-conversion life: Before you believed in Jesus.** Galatians 1:13, 14

- No sin is too great or small for God to forgive.

Galatians 1:13 *"For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it."*

Acts 8:1; 26:9-20

- Recognize past religious rituals that do not give spiritual freedom.

Galatians 1:14 *"...and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions."*

Philippians 3:2-7

- **Your true conversion to believe in Jesus.** Galatians 1:15, 16

Galatians 1:15-16a *"But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..."*

- God "set him apart at birth." Ephesians 1:3, 4
- God called him by His grace. 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- God revealed Jesus in him. Acts 9:1-9; 4:12

- **Your post-conversion life: How you have grown in Christ to serve Him.** Galatians 1:16-24

Galatians 1:16a *"...so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..."*

- To grow in my knowledge of Christ. Vs. 16, 17
- To connect with other spiritual leaders for community in Christ. Vs. 18, 19; Acts 9:23-25
- To have a spiritual impact on other people because Jesus changed me. Vs. 23
- To glorify Christ for what He has done for me. Vs. 24

Digging Deeper

Our new series from Galatians helps us understand how the gospel of Jesus Christ gives our lives freedom from sin. We also learn today that when Jesus Christ changes our lives He provides an opportunity for us to tell our story of that life change to other people, just as Paul did in Galatians 1:11-24. In the preceding verses, he cautioned against the false gospels that are taught by others. Then he reveals in his own life how the one true gospel of Jesus Christ literally changed his life and impacted people that knew him.

We may not always be able to answer every argument or make people believe what is true about Christ, but we all can effectively share the story of how Jesus has changed us. It is important that every Christian be able to share their story because it can positively impact other people as in Galatians 1:23 and bring glory to God as in Galatians 1:24.

Read through Paul's story. Notice how he has three chapters which are described on the front of this outline:

1. His life before receiving Jesus that was full of terrible sins and religious rituals.
2. The point when God called him by His grace into His salvation and away from sin.
3. His life of ongoing growth and service after believing in Jesus.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Like Paul, write out your story using those same three divisions:

1. Your life before you believed in Jesus.

What were some of the things you did, believed or found important in the past that Jesus convicted you over and moved you from?

2. The point you believed in Jesus.

What circumstances helped you know the gospel of Jesus?
What people helped you understand the truth of the gospel?
What Bible verses have been helpful to you?

3. Your life after you believed in Jesus.

What spiritual leaders help teach you, mentor you, encourage you, pray for you?
What changes have you seen in your life in contrast to your life before Jesus Christ?
What new freedoms do you now enjoy knowing that Christ is in you and seeks to guide you?
How are you growing and serving in this new faith?

Next Steps:

1. **Respond to the good news of Jesus Christ and be baptized.** Come to the Prayer Points or find any leader at Calvary Church to pray with you about taking a next step toward surrendering to Jesus and living for His Kingdom. If you have not been baptized to express your faith to others, please join our Baptism Class on Sunday, May 21 at 9:00 am or 11:00 am in the Worship Center Prayer Room. Discover more at calvarylife.org/baptism
2. **Share this good news with others!** Receive biblical insights and practical tools on how to share the good news of Jesus with others by joining us at these upcoming Equipping Classes:

HELPING OTHERS DISCOVER JESUS: Sundays, April 30-May 21 · 9:00 am · Room W-209

Come be equipped to share your story, reach out, make disciples and help others discover how to live and love like Jesus. Learn more at calvarylife.org/reach

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE: Wednesdays, May 17-31 · 7:00-8:30 pm · Room W-209

In this class you'll explore your unique God-given spiritual gifts by taking insightful personality tests. You'll also learn what the Bible has to say about purpose and be equipped to make a difference at Calvary, in our community and around the world. Learn more at calvarylife.org/purpose



CALVARY
CHURCH

CONNECT. GROW. REACH
1010 N. Tustin Ave. | Santa Ana | CA

phn | 714.973.4800
web | calvarylife.org