



## 24 PRAYER: FREEDOM

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\*\* Since my arrival at Crossroads, God has put one word on my heart: freedom. Freedom has been the center of my prayers from the moment I accepted this job. I believe God is desiring and longing to set us free. Yet, we, like the people Jesus met, are often trapped. As I have been reading through the Gospels, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, I have seen Jesus time and again, set people free. As we come. Let us pray for one another and for Corvallis that God would set us free. Free to serve, free to love, free to glorify God's name, free! I have listed a few themes we can pray through for one another, and then listed stories in which Jesus set the person free. As you read these, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in praying specifically for yourself and others. In unison of voice and heart let us lift our hearts, lives and community before the Lord. Let us shake the heavens with our prayers!

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Some suggestions on how to pray for freedom using this list.

- The following list has been compiled to help you as you pray. Each topic begins with the word "freedom." Jesus called us to be free. John the Apostle writes, "If the Son sets free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36) What are we set free from, sin. Sin is not some ominous dark force. Sin is literally missing the mark. It is choosing to participate in a thought or action God directly say not to in the Scriptures. It is also choosing to not participate in an activity God calls us to participate in the Scriptures. The truth is, Jesus came to set us free from the consequences and power of sin. As we enter into a relationship with Jesus, we are invited to become children of God. (John 1:12). We are call sons and daughters of God, and as sons and daughters we have a permanent place in the family. (John 8:35). This is the truth, and Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32). Let us find freedom in Christ. The freedom to serve and love as we have been loved.
- As you begin, ask God to send the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who to pray for and how to pray as you pray through the list. It is not necessary to pray through everything on the list. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to the sections that God has for you.
- Scriptures have been given where we could find examples showing where Christ set a person free. If it is helpful, read the listed scripture verse, and then begin your time of prayer.
  - For example, when we read the story of the woman bleeding, we see Jesus set this woman free from years of physical pain and suffering. However, because of her bleeding she was considered unclean, and was not allowed to participate in community activities and worship. Therefore, she would have been an outcast in the Jewish culture and people would have avoided any contact with her. They would have seen her as cursed by God. Rejected by God. So, when Jesus healed her, Jesus set her free from the loneliness of being an outcast. Jesus set her free from the anxiety of wondering when she would die because the doctors couldn't heal her. Jesus set her free from the belief that she was rejected by God. Instead as God's ambassador, Jesus whole heartedly embraced her and called her a dear one of God. Jesus, even elevated her status among the Jewish people by commending her faith. Jesus set her free, truly free.
    - You could pray for a person to be freed from anxiety over a health issue.
    - You could pray for a person to be freed from social stigmas that destroy people.
    - You cold pray for physical healing and restoration.
    - You cold pray for the person to experience in their life the acceptance of God.
  - Another example is Zacchaeus. Jesus freed him from a life of greed and hunger for power. Jesus set him free from being a social outcast and the loathing of the people. Tax

collectors were hated. Jesus showed acceptance. Jesus even sat and ate a meal with him.

- You could pray for a person to be set free from the spirit of greed.
  - You could pray for a person to be set free from the spirit of poverty, the compulsive obsession that you never have enough
  - You could pray for a person to be given a generous and giving spirit.
  - You could pray for a person to be freed from the social stigmas a greedy or poverty minded person receives
  - You could pray for a person to be freed to receive God's love and experience God's love.
- As you pray, take time to imagine being in another person's shoes. Imagine what they may be going through. Ask the Holy Spirit to set them free.

#### FREEDOM FROM SIN

- Woman caught in adultery ..... John 8:1-11
- Temptation of Jesus ..... Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13
- Matthew ..... Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:13-17
- Giving up your burdens ..... Matthew 11:28-30
- Correcting one another ..... Matthew 18:15-20
- Clearing the Temple ..... Matthew, Mark 11:15-19

#### FREEDOM FROM SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

- Woman at the well ..... John 4:1-38

#### FREEDOM FROM THE PAIN OF THE PAST

- Woman at the well ..... John 4:1-38

#### FREEDOM FROM WORRY AND ANXIETY

- Birds of the field ..... Matthew 6:19-34, Luke 12:22-34
- Mary and Martha ..... Luke 10:38-42
- Disciples on the raging sea ..... Mark 4:35-41

#### FREEDOM FROM FEAR

- Disciples on the raging sea ..... Matthew 8:23-27, 14:22-33, Mark 4:35-41, 6:45-51
- Going into Ministry ..... Matthew 10:26-31
- Lost Sheep ..... Matthew 18:12-14
- Peter's Denial ..... Matthew 26:31-35, 26:69-75

#### FREEDOM FROM ANGER

- Being reconciled ..... Matthew 5:21-26

#### FREEDOM FROM SHAME

- Woman caught in adultery ..... John 8:1-11
- Woman at the well ..... John 4:1-38
- Leper ..... Matthew 8:1-4;
- Woman Bleeding ..... Mark 5:24-33; Luke 8:42-56

#### FREEDOM FROM LONELINESS

- Woman caught in adultery ..... John 8:1-11
- Woman at the well ..... John 4:1-38
- Leper ..... Matthew 8:1-4;
- Woman Bleeding ..... Mark 5:24-33; Luke 8:42-56

## FREEDOM FROM PRIDE

- Greatest in the Kingdom ..... Matthew 19:1-10, Mark 9:33-37
- Religiosity ..... Matthew 15:1-20, 23:1-36, Mark 7:1-23, 12:38-40
- Becoming a servant ..... Mark 10:35-45

## FREEDOM FROM FINANCIAL BURDENS

- Birds of the air ..... Mathew 6:19-34
- Rich man wanting to follow Jesus ..... Matthew 19:16-30
- Matthew called to ministry ..... Matthew 9: 9-13, Mark 2:13-17
- Zaccheus ..... Luke 19:1-10
- Going into Ministry ..... Matthew 10:8-14

## FREEDOM FROM A JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE

- Condemning Others ..... Matthew 7:1-6

## FREEDOM FROM PHYSICAL/SOCIAL PAIN, HURTS, AILMENTS, PROBLEMS

- Leper ..... Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45
- Woman bleeding for 12 years .....
- Man with the crippled hand ..... Matthew 12:9-14
- Paralytic ..... Matthew 9:1-13; Mark 2:1-12
- Zaccheus ..... Luke 19:1-10
- Healing the Crowds ..... Matthew 4:23-25, 8:14-17, 9:35-36, 14:34-36, 15:29-31, Mark 1:29-34, 2:7-12, 6:53-56
- Blind Men ..... Matthew 9:27-34, 20:29-34, Mark 8:22-26, 10:46-52
- Sabbath healing ..... Mark 3:1-6
- Deaf/Mute man ..... Mark 7:31-37

## FREEDOM FROM THE DEMONIC

- Legion ..... Luke 8:26-39
- Two men ..... Matthew 8:28-34
- Boy/man filled with a demon ..... Matthew 12:22-37, 17:14-21, Mark 1:21-28, 5:1-20, 9:14-29
- Young Girl ..... Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30
- Crowds ..... Mark 3:11-12

## FREEDOM TO FORGIVE

- Forgive others ..... Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 6:37-38
- A debt ..... Matthew 18:21-35

## FREEDOM TO HEAR GOD/GOD'S VOICE/GOD'S CALL

- Calling of the Disciples ..... Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13, Mark 1:16-20, 3:13-19, 6:6b-13
- Lost Sheep ..... Matthew 18:12-14
- Bridesmaids ..... Matthew 25:1-13

## FREEDOM TO KNOW GOD

- Peter's Declaration ..... Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30
- Transfiguration ..... Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13
- Blessing the children ..... Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 9:33-37, 13-16
- Living in the Kingdom ..... Matthew 19:28-30

- Vineyard Workers ..... Matthew 20:1-16
- Triumphal Entry ..... Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 12:1-11
- The Great feast ..... Matthew 22:1-14
- Last Supper ..... Matthew 26:26-30
- Garden prayer ..... Matthew 26:36-46
- Crucifixion and Resurrection..... Matthew 27:32-28:10
- Rich young ruler ..... Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31

#### FREEDOM TO JOIN GOD IN MINISTRY

- Counting the Cost..... Matthew 8:18-22, 16:24-28, Mark 8:34-38
- Celebrating ..... Matthew 9:14-17
- Harvest Workers..... Matthew 9:35-38
- Sending the Disciples ..... Matthew 10
- Three stewards..... Matthew 25:14-30
- Sheep and goats ..... Matthew 25:31-46
- Garden prayer ..... Matthew 26:36-46
- Great commission..... Matthew 28:16-20

#### FREEDOM TO GIVE GENEROUSLY

- Giving to the Needy ..... Matthew 6:1-4
- Having an Open Heart ..... Matthew 6:19-21, 24
- Rich young ruler ..... Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31
- Widow's Mite ..... Mark 12:41-44

#### FREEDOM TO SERVE OTHERS

- Seeking honor ..... Matthew 20:20-28
- Becoming a servant..... Mark 10:35-45

#### FREEDOM TO OBEY GOD

- Garden prayer ..... Matthew 26:36-46, 51-54
- Before the council and guards ..... Matthew 26:57-68, 27:27-31
- Crucifixion and Resurrection..... Matthew 27:32-28:10

#### FREEDOM TO WORSHIP GOD

- Expensive perfume..... Matthew 26:6-13
- Last Supper ..... Matthew 26:26-30

#### FREEDOM TO HONOR CIVIL AUTHORITY

- Temple tax ..... Matthew 17:24-27
- Paying tax ..... Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12:13-17

#### FREEDOM TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH

- Roman Officer ..... Matthew 8:5-13
- Jarius' Daughter ..... Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43
- Blind Men ..... Matthew 9:27-34
- Giving up your burdens ..... Matthew 11:28-30
- A tree, and its fruit ..... Matthew 12:33-37
- Understanding Christ's teaching ..... Matthew 13:10-17, Mark 4:10-12
- The Kingdom as Treasure ..... Matthew 13:44-45
- Walking on Water ..... Matthew 14:22-33

- Inner Purity ..... Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23
- Young Girl ..... Matthew 15:21-28
- Extending our resources ..... Matthew 14:13-21, 15:32-39, Mark 6:30-44, 8:1-10
- Young boy with a demon ..... Matthew 17:14-21
- How we live ..... Matthew 18:1-11, Mark 9:38-50
- Rich young ruler ..... Matthew 19:16-30
- Two sons ..... Matthew 21:28-32
- Warning against religiosity ..... Matthew 23:1-36
- Blind Bartimaeus ..... Mark 10:46-52
- Fig Tree ..... Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

#### FREEDOM TO PRAY POWERFULLY

- Prayer and Fasting ..... Matthew 6:5-18, Mark 2:18-22
- Asking of God ..... Matthew 7:7-11

#### FREEDOM TO LIVE A FULL LIFE

- God's Blessings ..... Matthew 5:3-12
- Building a Solid Foundation ..... Matthew 7:24-29
- Greatest commandment ..... Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34

#### FREEDOM TO LOVE OTHERS

- Loving your enemies ..... Matthew 5:43-48