

PRAYER

- Intercede for these truths to take deep root in your lives and for wisdom in applying them.

- Pray for victory and freedom in areas of struggle with sin.

- Lift in prayer the needs of the members in your group and believe for consistency in the faith and in God's Word in your lives.



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NOTES

CONNECT

- Have you ever been forced to do something you do not like? Share your experience.
- What are some of your likes and dislikes when it comes to choosing friends? How do you usually respond to people of different interests with yours?
- What are some things you tried to change in yourself that you are still having a hard time with? How did you try changing?

WORD

¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:16-18

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

The Bible speaks of two kinds of slavery: one to sin and the other to righteousness. We are slaves of either one or the other—there is no middle ground. The only difference is, one is an oppressive master and the other is a kind one. Let us look at the following truths as we ponder on which master we are actually serving.

- **Slavery to sin leads to death.**

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

John 8:34

Everyone who sins is subject to a ruthless and a relentless killer. Disobedience to God's Word ultimately leads to spiritual death. When we continue to sin, we feel our joys uncelebrated, our hopes quenched, and our passions dwindled. A life of slavery to sin is marked by meaninglessness, a lack of purpose, and the absence of fruitful and lasting relationships. Have you experienced this? How were you able to break free from this?

- **Slavery to righteousness leads to holiness.**

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:18

Righteousness, on the other hand, is having the ability to obey God's Word. This freedom is only achieved in Christ. We need to understand that since God is holy, He cannot tolerate sin in His presence. And so, knowing that we cannot free ourselves from sin, He sent His only Son Jesus to take our

place. Because of that divine exchange on the cross, how does God see us when we receive Jesus' gift of salvation? How are we cleansed from sin (Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 103:12)?

- **Obedience is from the heart.**

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

Romans 6:17

Some people obey due to obligation. Others obey out of necessity or under compulsion. But God's way is obedience from the heart (2 John 1:6). It is only when one genuinely accepts Jesus' work on the cross that one can truly obey God's commands by faith (Romans 1:5; 15:26). How is obeying an authority different from obeying someone you love?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How do you describe the spiritual progress in your life (Galatians 5:22)? What areas are you not seeing fruit in?
- How is your commitment to God? How consistent are you in reading and obeying God's Word?
- Why do you obey what the Bible says? What are some things that you find difficult to obey?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Which things in your life do you feel are not in line with God's Word? How do you plan to change these?
- Who are you teaching to follow God through His Word? (Name two to three persons.) How are you doing so far? What help do you need?
- Have you gone through One 2 One, the Purple Book, and Victory Weekend? Find out how you can make time for a personal study of God's Word.