



Where Can I Find True Freedom? Psalm 107

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

[2 Corinthians 3:17-18]

A. Four Situations of Despair

- 1] Wanderer: Tracking Aimlessly in the Desert [4-5]
- 2] Prisoner: Wasting Away in Bondage [10-12]
- 3] Afflicted: Clinging to Life [17-18]
- 4] In the Storm: Losing Control [23-27]

B. What did they do? They cried to the Lord

C. What did God do? Delivered them from distress

- 1] Led the Lost Home - Satisfied Their Soul [Ps. 107:9]
- 2] Brought Them Out - Into Light, Life, & Freedom [Luke 4:18f]
- 3] Sent our His Word - Healed and Delivered Them [Ps. 107:16; Jeremiah 30:17]
- 4] Calmed the Storm - Relieved the Anxiety and Brought them Safely to Their Destination [1 Pet. 5:6-7]

D. What did God want? Authentic Worship!

Gratitude and Praise [8, 15, 21-22, 31-32]

E. Where Is True Freedom Found?

- 1] Answer: In Christ! [John 8:36]
- 2] Our Responsibility [Galatians 5:1,13-14; 1 Peter 2:16]

Discussion Questions

1. What patterns do you see in Psalm 107 with people in despair and God's response?
2. Choose one of the four situations described in Psalm 107: a wanderer lost in a desert wasteland (vv. 4–9), a prisoner chained in a dark dungeon (vv. 10–16), a foolish sinner caught in sin's consequences (vv. 17–22), and a sailor whose ship seems to be sinking in a great storm (vv. 23–30). Think about what you might experience in a similar situation.
3. Pray for yourself or for someone you love who may be in the desperate situation you thought about; As you pray thank the Lord for His *chesed* toward you and others.
[Questions 2 and 3 are from the NKJV Abide Bible]

Psalm 107 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love [chesed] endures forever! ² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in ⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷ He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. ⁸ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love [chesed], for his wondrous works to the children of man! ⁹ For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, ¹¹ for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. ¹² So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.

¹³ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart. ¹⁵ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love [chesed], for his wondrous works to the children of man! ¹⁶ For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

¹⁷ Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; ¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. ²¹ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love [chesed], for his wondrous works to the children of man! ²² And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

²³ Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; ²⁴ they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. ²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; ²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. ²⁸ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁹ He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. ³¹ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love [chesed], for his wondrous works to the children of man! ³² Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

John 8:36 If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Galatians 5:1, 13-14 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery . . . ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

1 Peter 2:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.