

# Freedom to Live Victoriously

By M. J. BAGNULL

LORD, I think of myself as free, and I live in a free country, yet I know when I am really honest with myself that I'm not totally free.

But if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.<sup>1</sup>

Lord, I know Your cross frees me from sin and death, but I wonder whether the freedom You're talking about is something more as well?

Yes, there is much more that I long to do in you. As you know Me better, I will give you everything you need for living a truly good life.<sup>2</sup>

Lord, does that "everything" include freedom from problems that seem to never end?

No, not freedom from them, but overwhelming victory in them is yours through Me.<sup>3</sup> I want you to learn to rejoice even in the midst of difficulties, for they are good for you and teach you to become more patient and trusting in Me. And I promise you that through them you will discover how dearly I love you<sup>4</sup> and that I will work all things together for your good.<sup>5</sup>

But Lord, what about my doubts and fears that threaten to overwhelm me?

You are precious to me and I love you. Don't be afraid for I am with you.<sup>6</sup> When you cry to Me, I will answer you. I will free you from all your fears.<sup>7</sup>

But Lord, sometimes I become discouraged because You don't seem to be listening.

Wait patiently for Me to help you. I will listen and hear your cry. I will lift you out of the pit of despair, out from the bog and mire, and set your feet on a hard, firm path and steady you as you walk along.<sup>8</sup>

Sometimes, though, Lord, I feel so confused inside that I don't know what to do.

I will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Me, whose thoughts turn often to Me.<sup>9</sup>

But Lord, my prayer life is not always what it should be. I guess this is because I don't always live in line with Your will and commandments.

But the power of the life-giving Spirit—and this power is yours—frees you from the vicious circle of sin and death.<sup>10</sup> And this same Holy Spirit, when you allow Him to control your life, will produce in you the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.<sup>11</sup>

But Lord, all of these things are the opposite of how I so often think and act.

But you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.<sup>12</sup> And remember it is I who have begun a good work within you, and I will keep right on helping you grow in grace until My task within you is finally accomplished.<sup>13</sup> ▲

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<sup>1</sup>John 8:36

<sup>2</sup>2 Peter 1:3

<sup>3</sup>Romans 8:37

<sup>4</sup>Romans 5:3-5

<sup>5</sup>Romans 8:28

<sup>6</sup>Isaiah 43:1, 2

<sup>7</sup>Psalms 34:4

<sup>8</sup>Psalms 40:1, 2

<sup>9</sup>Isaiah 26:3

<sup>10</sup>Romans 8:2

<sup>11</sup>Galatians 5:22, 23

<sup>12</sup>John 8:32

<sup>13</sup>Philippians 1:6