

Standing

Free



STANDING FREE

A follow-up study for Christians
who have completed the *Freedom in Christ*
“Steps to Freedom”

Prepared by Peg J. McCabe
Freedom in Christ @ 2nd
Second Baptist Church
3111 E. Battlefield
Springfield, Missouri 65804
417-887-3111, Ext. 222

WHAT "THE STEPS" DO - AND DO NOT DO

Neil makes some interesting statements about confession and repentance in his book, "*Discipleship Counseling*." Please read them:

To confess means to agree with God. . . Confession is the critical first step in repentance, *but it is not complete repentance - and will not be - until there is a demonstrated change.* "The Steps" do not bring about complete repentance - they make it possible.

There must be three parts operating to make the whole of complete repentance:

1. submit to God
2. resist the devil
3. close the door - involves three things: (1) when all bondages are broken; (2) all mental strongholds have been torn down; and (3) *sources that feed the problem have been cut off.* (This includes renouncing the lies we have believed - which contributed to the sinful behavior - and then choosing the Truth).

What part does our will play in these three?

You have completed the *Steps to Freedom* and have exercised repentance in different areas of your life. To stay free, you must also practice the first two points above, AND number 3-(3) in cutting off contact with anything - or anyone - that would pull you back into bondage. This essential part of true repentance is often rationalized or trivialized. For your victory, take it very seriously and follow Joseph's example and FLEE from those things that would entice you back to bondage.

This booklet is composed to help you walk in the freedom the Lord has given you. We pray you will *invest* in what follows and continue on in your freedom!

COUNTERFEIT vs. REAL – Step One

When you completed the “Steps to Freedom,” the first step you encountered was on the subject of “past or present involvement in satanically inspired occult practices and false religions.” That may have surprised you at the time. You may have wondered how seemingly innocent contact with such things could have caused a doorway for Satan in your life. Or, you may have thought that since you didn’t “invest” in observing it or since you only “jokingly” participated, it could have no affect on you. If so, the following will open up your understanding of how serious God is in this matter as you get into the Word yourself.

OR, you may have been all too familiar with how such contact could open doorways to the enemy. You may have come out of heavy involvement in the occult, New Age religion, or witchcraft, such as WICCA. Either way it behooves all of us as children of God to be aware of the dangers of this lure and to never regard it haughtily as though we could never be trapped by it. It can be *extremely subtle*, which is why scripture warns about “playing” with the forbidden. It was written for our safety and it is a warning we must heed if we are to continue in safety. ***It is very likely that even more subtle forms of the occult will increase as the day of Christ’s return grows nearer – “deceiving, if possible, even the elect.” Mk. 13:22***

The avenues through which these subtle temptations come could be just as attractive to those of us who are free as to the general population. Already, New Age falsities appeal to Christians because so many of them are touted as “natural” and Christians equate that with God’s creation. Be on the alert for things that appear to promote healthiness and vigor, to more and seemingly innocuous martial arts, to the medical field’s “alternative medicine” tactics. In short, place your trust in God, not looking for an easy or quick way.

The following is for your personal study regarding the biblical uses of occult terms and the subsequent warnings against. Be attentive to context and to the Lord’s opinion revealed in that context:

Witchcraft – O.T. – the Hebrew word is defined as “divination (including its fee), magic.” Divination in Webster’s Dictionary means: “the art or practice that seeks to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by the interpretation of omens or by the aid of supernatural powers.”

N.T. – There are two words translated “witchcraft,” with interestingly different meanings. The first word (Strong’s Concordance #4021) “periergos” is used in Acts 19:19 and means “a standard term for black arts or magic and pointed to the lengthy and various rituals involved in incantation ceremonies and the fastidiousness with which they were performed.”

The second word translated witchcraft (Strong’s # 5331) is “pharmakeia,” which is used in Galatians 5:20 and Rev. 9:21 and 18:23. The word means “the occult, sorcery, witchcraft, illicit pharmaceuticals, trance, magical incantations with drugs.” It is the word from which we get our modern word “pharmacy.”

Consider these biblical references regarding witchcraft:

1. Deut. 18:10-14
2. II Chronicles 33:1-10
3. Galatians 5:20
4. Acts. 19:19
5. Revelations 9:21; 18:23

Sorceries O.T. – the Hebrew meaning is “to whisper a spell; i.e., to enchant or practice magic. N.T. – The Greek translates two different words as sorcery in the N.T. One word (Strong’s #3097) used in Acts 13:6,8, means “oriental scientist; by implication, a magician.” The other word is the word “pharmakeia” (see above) and is found in Revelations 9:21; 18:23; 21:8 and 22:15. Websters Dictionary defines sorcery as “the use of power gained from the assistance or control of evil spirits.”

Consider these biblical references regarding sorcery:

1. Exodus 7:11; Isaiah 47:9-15; Daniel 2:2-11; Malachi 3:5; Rev. 21:8 and 22:15

Mediums O.T. – the King James version uses “and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards” The Hebrew meaning is “a knowing one, specifically a conjurer.”

Consider these biblical references regarding mediums:

1. Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27
2. Deut. 18:11
3. I Samuel 28:3,7
4. I Chronicles 10:13
5. II Chronicles 33:6
6. Isaiah 8:19; 19:3
7. Jeremiah 27:9

Diviners The Hebrew meaning for the word is: “to distribute, i.e., determine by lot or magical scroll, soothsayer.” Webster’s Dictionary defines it as: “the art or practice that seeks to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by interpretation of omens or by the aid of supernatural powers, intuitive perception.”

Consider these biblical references for diviners:

1. Gen. 30:27; 44:5
2. Lev. 19:26
3. Numbers 22:7
4. Deut. 18:10,14
5. Joshua 13:22
6. I Samuel 15:23
7. II Kings 17:17; 21:6; 33:6
8. Isaiah 2:6:44:25
9. Jeremiah 27:9; 29:8
10. Daniel 4:7; 5:7

Magicians The King James version translates this word as “a horoscopist (as drawing magical lines or circles); magician.” The Webster’s Dictionary defines it as: “magic – the use of means (as charms or spells) believe to have supernatural power over natural forces; magic rites or incantations; something that seems to cast a spell.”

Consider these scriptures regarding magicians:

1. Gen. 41:8, 24
2. Exodus 7:11,22; 8:7,18,19; 9:11; 13:18,20
3. Isaiah 47:12
4. Daniel 1:20; 2:2
5. Acts 8:11
6. Rev. 21:8; 22:15

Astrologers The King James meaning is: “practice enchantment; conjurer, astrologer.” Webster’s meaning is “the divination of the supposed influences of the stars and planets on human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects.”

Consider these scriptural references for astrologers:

1. Isaiah 47:13
1. Daniel 2:2; 4:5 & 10; 3:8; 4:7; 5:7

Enchanters The primary interpretation of this word by the King James is: “to hiss; i.e., whisper a magic spell; generally to prognosticate,” but it is also rendered, “to act covertly, to cloud over, to cover, i.e., to practice magic,” and “a blaze; also from the idea of enwrapping – magic (as covert); and covered, i.e., secret. By implication – incantations, and a spell, charmer.” Webster’s says: “to influence by charms and incantations bewitch.”

Consider these scriptural references for enchanters:

1. Daniel 1:20; 2:2; 4:7; 5:15

False Religions Consider these scriptural references for false religions:

1. Ex. 23:24, 32-33; 34:15-16
2. Deut. 6:14; 7:16; 8:19; 11:16, 28; 12:30; 13:2, 6; 13:13; 28:14; 29:18, 26 30:17; 32:17
3. Joshua 24:2, 23
4. Judges 2:3,17,19
5. I Kings 11:4
6. Isaiah 37:12
7. Jeremiah 2:11; 7:6; 16:20; 25:6

False Teachers Consider these scriptural references for false teachers:

1. Matt. 7:15; 24:11, 24
2. Luke 6:26
3. Acts 13:6
4. II Corinthians 11:13
5. II Peter 2:1
6. I John 4:1

Making an oath or a vow Consider these scriptural references for making an oath:

1. Numbers 30:2-4
2. Deut. 23:21-23
3. Judges 11:30-40
4. Eccl. 5:4-5
5. Matt. 5:33-37
6. James 5:12

DECEPTION vs. TRUTH -Step Two

What is deception? Webster's Dictionary defines it as: "the fact or condition of being deceived." What, then, is deceive? Again, according to Webster, it is: "to ensnare; to be false to; to fail to fulfill; cheat; *to cause to accept as true or valid what is false and invalid.*" Synonyms: mislead; delude; beguile.

Biblically, deceive means: The New Testament Greek word (Strong's 4105) means "to cause to roam from safety, truth, or virtue; go astray, wander." It is from a root word (4106) that means: "fraudulence, a straying from orthodoxy or piety; delusion; error."

What is truth? Webster's Dictionary defines truth as: "the body of real things, events and facts; actuality; a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality; the property of being in accord with fact or reality."

Biblically, truth means: Strong's 225: "reality; the unveiled reality lying at the basis of and agreeing with an appearance; the manifested, the veritable essence of matter" (taken from The Word Study Dictionary, based on Strong's numbering system). In the New Testament, "divine truth or the faith and practice of the true gospel is called 'truth', either as being true in itself and derived from the true God, or as declaring the existence and will of the one true God, in opposition to the worship of false idols. Hence, divine truth, gospel truth, as opposed to heathen and Jewish fables."

QUESTIONS:

1. **On the human level (i.e., flesh), how do we distinguish between truth and deception?**

How does this differ from the spiritual level?

2. **Let's examine some deceptions of those written of in the Bible:**

II Samuel 11

- (1) **What was the beginning of David's deception?** (Chapter 11, verses 1-4)

- (2) **How does what happened in the above four verses relate to James 1:13-15?**
- (3) **When was David's first opportunity to stop the slide into greater deception?** (verse 2)
- (4) **David then put his "cover-up" plan into action. When was David's next opportunity to come out of deception?** (verses 10 & 11)
- (5) **Was David's deception imposed by a. himself; b. the world; or the devil?** (support your answer from the text)
- (6) **What had happened in David that he could do what he did in verses 13 and 15?**
- (7) **How did David's acting upon his deception involve other people?** (verses 18-26 & 12:7, 14 & 18)

II SAMUEL 12

- (1) **By using the parable instead of direct confrontation, God accomplished something in David to more effectively grow him into the likeness of Christ. What?** (note vs's 5 & 13)
- (2) **Now go to Psalms 32 and pick up on the lessons David learned from this. What is the picture of what David experienced all through the deception until it was surfaced?** (verses 3 & 4)

What happened when he came out of the deception? (Ps. 32:5)

What did he learn about deception? (Ps. 32:1, 2, 6)

What did he learn about rebellion? (Ps. 32:8-11)

(3) Does one person's (our own) deceptions affect others? (II Sam. 12:10-12)

(4) How does giving into deception affect our relationship with the Lord? (II Sam. 12:7-9)

(5) Do a study of your own on some of the Bible characters regarding deception. For example, Saul, Joshua, Abraham, Peter.

HOW CAN WE DECEIVE OURSELVES?

1. Write out how you see the biblical definition of *believe*:

2. Think of something in ordinary physical life that requires you to believe in it (an example might be that you believe someone will stop for a red light). Compare to your definition of believe in Question One. Are they the same concept? Why? Or Why not?

3. This is a study of “Deception vs. Truth.” IS there an absolute truth? If there is, then great heed needs to be paid to what you answered in the two questions above, because self-deception becomes possible. How?

4. What do the following have to do with numbers 1-3 above?
 - (1) Mark 4:35-40:

 - (2) Hebrews 11:6:

 - (3) John 6:28-29:

We have seen that the biblical requirement of “believing” has greater depth of meaning than we may have previously thought, and that we often apply biblical believing to things of ordinary life with greater ease than we do to eternal things. Isaiah 30:15 says, “in returning (i.e., repentance) and rest shall you be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” Some key words here are “rest,” “quietness,” and “confidence.”

Rest — this word comes from the Hebrew word meaning “lighting down”; “to be set on” (Strong’s Concordance #5183). It is a word describing one who confidently lays back into a hammock, fully assured it will hold and giving self to complete rest in that assurance.

Quietness — (Strong's 8252) means to repose, settle, be still (again, the hammock confidence explains it well).

Confidence — (Strong's 985) a place of refuge, safety; to trust, be confident or sure; secure; without care (once again, the hammock example).

Hence, we can conclude that *we deceive ourselves when we do not practice biblical believing* in our Christian walk. This is so incredibly important to comprehend that God spends His entire Word trying to get the point across of what He means by faith/believing. It is the basis of the entire discussion of "entering His rest" in Hebrews 3 & 4. It is what Jesus meant in John 6:28-29; and it is the message of His famous lesson in John 15:1-5. Paul takes up the divine perspective in Galatians when he admonishes the Galatians in chapter 3:1-7, that it is by *faith* and faith alone that we stand.

There may be many specific things that the Bible does not mention (such as cigarette smoking, for example) but it DOES talk about self-deception:

James 1:22-25:

- 1. What is James saying in verse 22 regarding believing?**
- 2. How do verses 23-24 compare with what Jesus said in John 15:1-5? Is there a contradiction here? Support your answer.**
- 3. Contrast James use of "forgetful hearer" to what Jesus said about listening in Mark 4:24. Now look up Galatians 3:5. In all three references, what kind of "hearing" is being discussed?**

I John 1:5-10:

- 1. This is really a discussion of what it means to "walk in the light," which is described in verses 8-10. The self-deception here is subtle in that most of us would readily admit that we have sin and indeed struggle with it in full reality. However, cross-reference to Galatians 6:1. This may cast some light on what is meant here. Can we be children of God and NOT walk in the light?**

Galatians 6:3:

1. Does this relate back to being “careful how you listen”? Is this a spiritual pride issue?

I Corinthians 3:18-23:

1. What kind of wisdom is he talking about in verse 18?

2. Verses 21-23 are the essence of the discussion we’ve been having on believing and why it would be self-deception to think of ourselves as wise in this world. Explain:

James 1:26:

1. The word “religious” here means demonstrative; i.e., showing forth your faith. Take this back to the discussion on “biblical believing.” **What do you conclude?**

**Complete the self-analysis exercise on the next page.
Be completely honest with yourself in it.**

This is something that you completed when you went through the “Steps to Freedom.” The purpose for it here is to help you measure where you are now on this critical subject of whether you are operating according to feelings, or according to faith.

God is:	Feelings										Faith	:
Distant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Insensitive/uncaring	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Stern/demanding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Passive/cold	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Absent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Impatient/angry	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
His expectations remove fun in life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Controlling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Condemning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Exacting	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Never satisfied with me & what I do	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		

CHOOSING TRUTH OVER THE LIE

This is one of the predominant deceptions that trip us up after we have completed “The Steps to Freedom.” To look at this in depth, examine the scripture references below in light of these questions:

1. In what way(s) was the person negligent in assuming responsibility to choose Truth?

2. What consequences resulted from their choice?

A. Genesis 3:1-6 (note Genesis 2:16-17 for context)

1.

2.

B. Acts 5:1-11

1.

2.

C. I Timothy 1:18-20

1.

2.

FEAR

1. **Is fear a deception? Why? Or Why not?** (biblically base your answer)

2. Here is a quotation from Vine's Dictionary:

"deilos" (#1169 in Strong's Concordance) -- "timid" is used in Matt. 8:26 and Mark 4:40. In Rev. 21:8, the "fearful" are first in the list of the transgressors.

Please note that this is one word for fear. There are others; e.g., the healthy fear/awe of God and the innate fear of impending harm. *This word, "deilos" is unique in that it is never used in a positive sense in the Word of God.* Consider its use in the verses below:

1. **Matthew 8:26** (note 8:18) **and Mark 4:40:**

A. What is Jesus' reaction to their fear?

B. Would the disciples fear be categorized as deception? Why? Or Why not?

C. Have you ever been in a similar situation since you completed the "Steps to Freedom"? If so, repeat questions A and B for your situation:

2. **Revelations 21:6-8:**

The disciples had the pre-resurrected Christ and only the Old Testament Scriptures and yet we have seen Jesus' reaction to their cowardice. *WE have ascended, victorious Christ, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the full written scriptures.* This passage is quite clear about how God feels about our cowering fear. **What word immediately follows fearful? What is the significance of that?**

COMPLETE THE PHOBIA FINDER ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

PHOBLA FINDER

ANALYZE YOUR FEAR:

Identify fear object

when did you first
experience the fear?

what events preceded the
first occurrence?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. DETERMINE WHERE GOD'S PLACE IN YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN USURPED. In what way do any of your fears:

Corresponding # above

prevent you from
responsible behavior?

compel you toward
irresponsible behavior?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

C. CONFESS ANY WAYS YOU HAVE - EITHER ACTIVELY OR PASSIVELY—ALLOWED FEAR TO CONTROL YOUR LIFE:

BITTERNESS vs FORGIVENESS – Step Three

The greatest inroad Satan has into the church is through the avenue of remaining bitter over past (or present) hurts and not making the choice to forgive. Christians tend to stay alert to really “obvious” sins, while being deceived as to the depth of the sin of unforgiveness. Examine this scripture:

Hebrews 12:15

1. What does “see to it” mean?
2. What is the significance of the word “root”?

The *Complete Word Study Dictionary* defines the word “springing” in this Verse (Strong’s #5453) as: “to be generated, produce, bring forth, let grow, of plants, fruit, or persons . . . synonyms – to grow or increase, to become, to be.

3. At what point must the “springing up” be stopped? How?
4. The word “trouble” (Strong’s 1776) means to “crowd in,” agitate greatly, vex, cause trouble. How would one’s *personal* bitterness/unforgiveness cause trouble for others? (The Strong’s word for “defiled” is #3392 and means to “sully or taint; i.e., contaminate.”)
5. Have you heard this statement: “I had a debt I could not pay. He paid a debt He did not owe”? In this simple statement is the totality of the critical necessary of our forgiving others – we have been forgiven so great a debt. Look up these scriptures:

Matthew 6:14-15

Matthew 18:21-35

II Cor. 2:10-11

6. What are your conclusions regarding the imperative of forgiving?

PRIDE – Step Four

1. How did Jesus respond to His disciples' pride in these verses?

Luke 9:51-56: (Consider that the word “rebuke” in the New Testament (Strong’s 2008) means “to tax upon, i.e., censure or admonish; by implication – forbid, straitly charge.)

Luke 22:23-26: How do you equate our being children of God with also being servants? (Hebrews 5:8)

2. James and Peter both addressed God’s attitude to man’s pride:

James 4:6: What does “opposed” mean here?

I Peter 5:5: What does “clothe yourself” imply as to responsibility?

3. Within the boundaries of God’s design for leadership is a reoccurring theme regarding submission. First set by Jesus’ example as described in Phil. 2:8.

What about submission to one another?

Romans 12:3:

Ephesians 5:21:

Hebrews 13:17:

I Peter 2:18:

I Peter 5:5:

What about submission within the family?

I Peter 3:1-5:

Ephesians 5:22:

Colossians 3:18:

4. Pride is very subtle. Consider the enclosed comparisons of prideful vs. humble people. Take a careful look at these areas and then seek the Lord to reveal any pride still remaining in your life:

Proud/unbroken People

Focus is on the failure of others

Self-righteous, have a critical, fault-finding spirit. Looks at own life through a telescope, but others with a microscope.

Looks down on others

Is independent/self-sufficient

Maintains control: "must be my way"

Much prove self as right

Claim rights

Demanding spirit

Pushes to be recognized/appreciated

Wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked

Focus on what they can do for God

Feel confident in how much they know

Broken People

Overwhelmed with own spiritual need

Compassionate; forgiving; looks for the best in others.

Actively places others before self

Has a dependent spirit; recognizes need of others.

Surrenders control, incorporating others

Willing to yield the right to be right

Yield rights

Giving spirit

Sense of unworthiness; thrilled to be used at all; eager for others to receive the credit

Rejoice when others are lifted up

Know they have nothing to offer God

Humbled by how much they have to learn.

Proud/unbroken People

Focus is on self

Keep people at arm's length

Quick to blame others

Defensive when criticized

Concerned about what others think about them.

Works to maintain image and protect reputation/image

Finds it difficult to share their spiritual needs with others

Want to be sure no one finds out about their sin

Having a hard time saying, "I was wrong, would you forgive me?"

When confessing sin, deals in generalities

Only remorseful over sin — got caught

Waits for others to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict

Compares self with others/feel deserving of honor

Can't think of anything needing repentance

Think others need revival, but not them

Broken People

Not concerned with self at all.

Risks getting close to others, willing to take the risks of loving intimately

Accepts personal responsibility; can see when they are wrong and admits

Receives criticism with a humble and open heart

Only concerned about what God thinks about them

Dies to own image

Open and transparent with others

Willing to be exposed — once broken they don't care who knows.

Quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness

Grieved more over the cause/root

Repentant and forsakes the sin

Takes the initiative to be reconciled

Compares self to the holiness of God and knows need of mercy

Continual heart attitude of repentance

Continually sense their need for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit

REBELLION -Step Five

In the dictionary, rebellion is defined as “opposition to one in authority.” In the Hebrew (Strong’s # 4805) the word means “bitterness-rebellion” In the modern world, “doing your own thing” is considered commendable. However, in God’s economy it is called rebellion, being “stiff-necked,” or not denying self. It is never seen in a positive light.

The Lord told the apostle Paul, “my power is perfected in weakness” and Paul accepted that and in accepting that, proved its truth. Rebellion is rampant in our society and can begin in very early childhood if there is permissive parenting that places the child as the central point of the family/world. The child then grows up thinking the world revolves around him. In the classroom, on the job, in the family, in the church, self is elevated and rebellion reigns.

Most of us do not see ourselves as rebellious. Let’s examine how offensive to God is the elevation of self:

1. How does God view disregard for His established lines of authority?

Leviticus 10:1-3:

Why was this insubordination dealt with so severely?

Numbers 12:1-10:

What is at work here in Miriam and Aaron?

Numbers 16:1-35 & I Timothy 5:17:

Does God’s expectation regarding His leaders change from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant?

I Samuel 15:1-23:

What was so wrong with Saul’s actions?

2. Established lines of authority are defined in the New Testament

Romans 13:1-7:

Who places people in government?

I Timothy 2:1-4:

Why are we to pray for those in authority?

Who is the source of the resulting tranquility?

I Peter 2:13-17: (Note: “honor” means (Strong’s 5091) “to prize, fix a valuation upon, to revere.”)

Why is it “for the Lord’s sake”? (vs. 13)

What about rebellion in families?

Ephesians 6:1-3:

I Peter 3:1-4:

4. Rebellion – and those whom God has placed in authority

Romans 13:1-4:

5. Rebellion – and employers

I Peter 2:18-23:

6. Rebellion – and church leaders

Hebrews 13:7:

7. Rebellion – and our relationship with God

Philippians 2:5-8:

BONDAGE vs FREEDOM – Step Six

Webster's Dictionary defines bondage as "a state of being bound usually by compulsion – as law or mastery; servitude or subjugation to a controlling person or force."

The Greek word (Strong's 1397) means "slavery." *The Complete Word Dictionary* broadens the understanding by saying, "that state of man in which he is prevented from freely possessing and enjoying his life; a state opposed to liberty. In the New Testament used only figuratively as a slavish spirit, in contrast to the spirit of sonship."

Bondage is the result of a **stronghold** – "mental habit patterns of thought burned into our minds over time or from the intensity of traumatic experiences. Strongholds are revealed in un-Christlike temperaments and behavior patterns *often unrecognized by self, or, if recognized, are seldom understood as choice.*" Neil T. Anderson

1. How is this brought out in Romans 6:12-13?
2. If you have used your body as an instrument of unrighteousness, allowing sin to reign there, and have not called upon Jesus to break the bondage, who has control, God or Satan?
3. Does verse 16 in Romans 6 verify your answer?

Breaking bondages and deceptions is what using the tool of "The Steps to Freedom" is all about – our part of repenting, forgiving and renouncing opens the way for Jesus to break strongholds and correct deceptions. Satan desires to re-establish these bondages and extreme alertness is necessary on our part to walk in truth regarding former bondages.

In the space below, list some of the strongholds that held you in bondage before God broke them when you completed "The Steps to Freedom."

Next, list any old or new strongholds that you are struggling with presently

In the third column, put the date you completed the appropriate renunciations in Step Six again for each listed in the second column. Now, resolve to stand against the lie with the truth.

BEFORE

NOW

DATE

CURSES vs BLESSINGS - Step Seven

This is a one-time renunciation. The demonic attachment to the sins of the forefathers can be understood by the discussion in Step Six about allowing sin to “reign.” The doorway to the demonic that was allowed by that sin continues to be open in that family for demonic influences in succeeding generations. This Step breaks that descending. Individually, family members can still choose to sin in that same manner because of role modeling, environment, and heredity on the human plane. However, the demonic propensity towards it can be broken by the parents for children who are still below the age of reasoning. We are fully equipped against curses by unbelievers because we are **in Christ** and fully covered by the armor of God.

The “Steps to Freedom” are only a tool. *Who* sets us free is Jesus. *What* sets us free is our willingness to **both** submit to God **and** resist the devil. In this vein:

What did Jesus mean when He said to different people, “your faith has made you well?”

Slipping back into old habits of thought or behavior (strongholds) is easy to do **if** you do not assume your responsibility to choose truth over the lie. Discipline yourself to stay in the Word, draw near to God and resist the devil’s lies, take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and focus on who you really are **in Christ**.

Stay alert — “be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour”

GOD BLESS YOU — STAY FREE!

