

BECOMING FREE

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IN THE "GROWING FORWARD" SERIES:

January 4: Becoming Confident

January 11: Becoming Like Christ

January 18: Becoming Free

January 25: Becoming Focused—Part 1

February 1: Becoming Focused—Part 2

February 8: Becoming Content

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE THE SAME PERSON YOU ARE TODAY AT THE END OF 2026.

John 8:31–36 (NLT) (31) Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. (32) And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (33) "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?" (34) Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. (35) A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. (36) So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

Philippians 3:1–11 (NLT) (1) Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. (2) Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. (3) For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, (4) though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! (5) I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. (6) I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. (7) I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. (8) Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ (9) and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. (10) I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, (11) so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

1) **Becoming free means** _____ **faith.**

Philippians 3:3–4 (NLT) (3) For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. **We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort**, (4) though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

Matthew 11:28–30 (NLT) (28) Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

2) **Becoming free requires _____ for Christ's perfection.**

Philippians 3:7–9 (NLT) (7) I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. (8) Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ (9) and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) (21) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Romans 5:1 (NLT) (1) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN, YOU ARE NOT JUST FORGIVEN—YOU ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS. THAT IS REAL FREEDOM!

Becoming A Christian Involves:

- Believing in Jesus
- Repenting and Confessing Sins
- Surrendering Your Life to Jesus

3) **Freedom is found in _____.**

Philippians 3:10–11 (NLT) (10) I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, (11) so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

WHEN YOU STOP TRYING TO PERFORM FOR GOD AND START PURSUING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THAT IS WHERE YOU FIND REAL FREEDOM.

Philippians 2:12B–13 (NLT)Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. (13) For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

WHEN YOU PURSUE KNOWING JESUS, IT WILL HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE AND HELP YOU TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP TO BECOME THE PERSON GOD CREATED YOU TO BECOME.