

We began with not using liberties as an occasion for the flesh. - Gal. 5:13

Started a series of teachings on Freedom from / Freedom to...

I Cor. 13:13 - now abide faith, hope and love (the word abide is used in the absolute sense with the idea of perpetuity, i.e., to remain forever, to be perpetual.

1st was freed to believe

- Defined faith in relational terms
 - Reliance upon - rather than "faith for" (Difference between believing God and believing for)
- Because faith is always IN not FOR - it is relational and a source of joy and peace - Rom. 15:13; I Peter 1:8
- Faith does NOT need a shield
- Reconciliation is the end game of all faith - I Peter 1:9
- Faith is NOT a merit badge
- All faith in God has Jesus as it's source and is given to us as a stewardship - so "my" faith, really isn't mine at all.
- Faith in prayer is NEVER about persuading a reluctant God to do our bidding. The purpose of faith in prayer is to align our will with His, and in partnership with Him, to ask Him to accomplish His will in us and on this earth through us. (Mat 6:10)
- Key concerning faith in prayer is "Thy WILL be done on earth as it is in heaven." NOT - "Let the part of the earth I live in be just like heaven".

2nd was freed to hope

- Defined hope - favorable expectation.
- Hope is built upon the foundation of faith - Heb. 11:1 - that which we expect.
- Expectation is grateful in nature - never presumptuous - (Grace - includes gratitude)
- Hope is not about fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind - Eph. 2:3
- Fear is opposite of hope
- Our hope stabilizes us(Heb. 6:17-20) and 'causes rejoicing (Rom. 5:2)
- The point of our hope is becoming like Him - Js. 1:18
- We confess (declare) out of our hope - BECAUSE we believe - not to stir up belief.

3rd was freed to love

- 1st need to know and believe HIS love for us
 - God is NOT silent but speaks to our need for love...
 - Leah
 - Gomer
 - Ruth
 - Hagar
 - See ourselves in the 3 parables of the lost coin, lost sheep and lost sons.
 - God pursues us
 - God breaks us
 - God rejoices over us
 - God is not embarrassed by us
 - God spends time with us and speaks over us (in the feast).
- Love God with all our hearts
 - Trust Him
 - Be determined to come to Him
 - Be willing and open to hear what He says
- Love our siblings in Christ as ourselves
- Love the lost