

Glorious Liberty and Glorious Restraint, in Christ

Rom 8:21 ...the glorious liberty of the children of God.

2 Cor 5:14 **The restraint of the love of Christ**

When Jesus died on the cross, went to hell in the heart of the earth and rose again on the third day, just like the Scriptures said, He won for us a completely new life in Him. Not only would He forgive us and put *in* us a new heart, a new spirit, an entirely new reborn nature, clean and created after His likeness, but then He would offer to put the Holy Spirit *in* us, the power to live in our new nature, in Christ, full of joy, happy, living as children of God. In short, He brought the kingdom near to us then put it *inside* us by His living word He speaks, we hear and believe, if we've been born again; then if we will become as humble little children by surrendering our will to the Holy Spirit, this is His power to live *in* the kingdom, and be made entirely free from sin as His children. But not just that, He has made and offers safeguards to *keep* us permanently in Christ so we do not leave Him by falling into sin and are not harmed by Satan, nor harm others. The two Scriptures above capture two key aspects of this new, wonderful, glorious Christian life.

Rom 8:21 ...**the glorious** (“very apparent”) **freedom from sin which God's children enjoy.** TLB

Before we were first forgiven and born again, we were dead to God in our trespasses and sins, living in slavery to our own will and the power of Satan in spiritual Egypt. But out of Egypt He called His son, and when we were born again, we were washed clean and received a new heart. But before we come under the control of the Holy Spirit, we continue to live in the wilderness of sin, a waste and howling wilderness where we wander and roam, never permanently entering God's rest in the promised land. Once we finally submit to God fully, bending our knee to Him in the spiritual land of Canaan, we begin to live in God's presence, in His glorious freedom from our own self-will, the power of our human nature over us, the law, the world and Satan:

Ps 16:11 **In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Ps 84:11 **He does not refuse any good thing to those who do what is right.** TEV

But God wants to now teach us how to remain in Him permanently, with no interruptions or treason. We need His loving restraint, which comes by continued submission to the Holy Spirit:

2 Co 5:14 **For the love of Christ controls us** ESV **We are ruled by the love of Christ...** TEV

For the love of Christ constrains us; KJV **Ro 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor**

What does this actually mean? The word for “controls, constrains or rules” is literally “to hold together” or “keep in.” It means God will teach me what do to, where to go, what to say. He will lovingly identify to me & check me in my spirit about thoughts He does not want me to think and then re-orient my thoughts on Him; words He does not want me to speak, and then will give me power to remain silent or speak the words He wants me to; and keep me from things He doesn't want me to do, but then will work in me the desire and the power to do His will. This is a key part of how God “keeps me in” Christ permanently, protecting me from all harm.

Zech 2:5 **‘For I,’ says the Lord, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her (New Jerusalem)...’** but

Eccl 10:8 **if you break through a wall (not letting God restrain me), a snake bites you.** TEV

Pr 10:27 **Fear of the Lord lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.** NLT