

Many Christians don't realize that we can make agreements with the enemy of our souls to escape our past pains
—whether it be from our performance, relationships, reputation, fear, or loss of control. Even though we have
been totally saved from the consequences of our sin, we can still live as a slave to Satan himself because of
conscious and unconscious contractual agreements we have made in our hearts.

God wants us FREE to live life as He designed it. In order to do so we must look inside our hearts, uncover these old agreements, and discover the simple steps to revoke and break them.

By breaking these oppressive agreements, we can then freely live out the life

Jesus ransomed us for and become fully alive through the four tributaries of Discipleship, Counseling, Healing, and Warfare.

God is calling us to live out our calling in communities of the heart, to fight for one another and for the hearts of those who have not yet been set free!

NO LONGER BOUND – WHOLEHEARTED!

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

March 13, 2025

Scripture: Matthew 16; Jeremiah 40:4-6; Galatians 5:1; Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 27:7-11; Isaiah 21:6-9; Matthew 13:11-15; Hebrews 12:12, 13; II Corinthians 4:5,6; I John 1:8-10; James 4:7-10

Music: Darius Rucker - We All Fall Down - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyyv1tVIIFA

Resources: Waking the Dead - The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive by John Eldredge

## NO LONGER BOUND: WHOLEHEARTED!

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

"And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven." He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

## **ACTION: Journal This!**

- 1. Who do you say Jesus is?
- 2. How are you different because of who He is to you?
- 3. How do your behaviors and actions in all relationships demonstrate it?

## We All Fall Down – Darius Rucker

What makes a man work until it's kids too old to kiss and hug

He won't climb another imaginary mountain

when he is in love enough

What makes a man build a kingdom all that he'll

lose his woman

How high is too high, how big is too big How far will we go just to slip of the edge? Yeah, we all fall down Live takes us out

The sky starts spinning When our heads get above the clouds

The higher we fly the harder it feels when we hit the ground

Yeah, we all fall down Yeah, we all fall down How does a man kick himself up when he smack himself down

Tell me where does he find the courage to turn its world back on well?

Where he breaks down and cries like someone just died

What can you say about the men he used to be?
When he can even speak and he is dying to
scream

That, we all fall down When we find out That the sky's not spinning when our heads get above the clouds

The higher we fly the harder it feels when we hit the ground

Yeah, we all fall down Yeah, we all fall down
If he's the only one to blame
And the only one to loose

How low he must go To win back his sole Yeah, we all fall down Yeah, we all fall down



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Matthew 16 - 1 Some Pharisees and Sadducees were on him again, pressing him to prove himself to them. 2 He told them, "You have a saying that goes, 'Red sky at night, sailor's delight; a red sky at morning, sailors take warning.' You find it easy enough to forecast the weather - why can't you read the signs of the times? 4 An evil and wanton generation is always wanting signs and wonders. The only sign you'll get is the Jonah sign." Then he turned on his heel and walked away. 5 On their way to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring along bread. 6 In the meantime, Jesus said to them, "Keep a sharp eye out for Pharisee-Sadducee yeast." Thinking he was scolding them for forgetting bread, they discussed in whispers what to do.8 Jesus knew what they were doing and said, "Why all these worried whispers about forgetting the bread? Runt believers! 9 Haven't you caught on yet? Don't you remember the five loaves of bread and the five thousand people, and how many baskets of fragments you picked up? 10 Or the seven loaves that fed four thousand, and how many baskets of leftovers you collected? 11 Haven't you realized yet that bread isn't the problem? The problem is yeast, Pharisee-Sadducee yeast."12 Then they got it: that he wasn't concerned about eating, but teaching - the Pharisee-Sadducee kind of teaching. 13 When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?"14 They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." 15 He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"16 Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."17 Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. 18 And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.19 "And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."20 He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.21 Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. 22 Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!"23 But Jesus didn't swerve. "Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works."24 Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. 25 Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. 26 What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?27 "Don't be in such a hurry to go into business for yourself. Before you know it the Son of Man will arrive with all the splendor of his Father, accompanied by an army of angels. You'll get everything you have coming to you, a personal gift.28 This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you standing here are going to see it take place, see the Son of Man in kingdom glory."

Jeremiah 40:4-6 - 4 "But today, Jeremiah, I'm setting you free, taking the chains off your hands. If you'd like to come to Babylon with me, come along. I'll take good care of you. But if you don't want to come to Babylon with me, that's just fine, too. Look, the whole land stretches out before you. Do what you like. Go and live wherever you wish. 5 If you want to stay home, go back to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan. The king of Babylon made him governor of the cities of Judah. Stay with him and your people. Or go wherever you'd like. It's up to you." The captain of the bodyguard gave him food for the journey and a parting gift, and sent him off. 6 Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah and made his

home with him and the people who were left behind in the land. Take Care of the Land

<u>Galatians 5:1 -</u> 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

<u>Psalm 147:3 - 3</u> He heals the heartbroken and bandages their wounds. <u>Isaiah 27:7-11 - 7</u> Has God knocked them to the ground as he knocked down those who hit them? Oh, no. Were they killed as their killers were killed? Again, no. <u>8</u> He was hard on them all right. The exile was a harsh sentence. He blew them away on a fierce blast of wind. <u>9</u> But the good news is that through this experience Jacob's guilt was taken away. The evidence that his sin is removed will be this: He will tear down the alien altars, take them apart stone by stone, And then crush the stones into gravel and clean out all the sex-and-religion shrines. <u>10</u> For there's nothing left of that pretentious grandeur. Nobody lives there anymore. It's unlivable. But animals do just fine, browsing and bedding down. <u>11</u> And it's not a bad place to get firewood. Dry twigs and dead branches are plentiful. It's the leavings of a people with no sense of God. So, the God who made them Will have nothing to do with them. He who formed them will turn his back on them.

<u>Isaiah 21:6-9 - 6</u> The Master told me, "Go, post a lookout. Have him report whatever he spots. When he sees horses and wagons in battle formation, lines of donkeys and columns of camels, Tell him to keep his ear to the ground, note every whisper, every rumor. "8 Just then, the lookout shouted, "I'm at my post, Master, Sticking to my post day after day and all through the night! 9 I watched them come, the horses and wagons in battle formation. I heard them call out the war news in headlines: 'Babylon fallen! Fallen! And all its precious god-idols smashed to pieces on the ground."

Matthew 13:11-15 - 11 He replied, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. 12 Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. 13 That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight. In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they're blue in the face and not get it. 14 I don't want Isaiah's forecast repeated all over again: Your ears are open but you don't hear a thing. Your eyes are awake but you don't see a thing. 15 The people are blockheads! They stick their fingers in their ears so they won't have to listen; They screw their eyes shut so they won't have to look, so they won't have to deal with me face-to-face and let me heal them.

Hebrews 12:12, 13 - 12 So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet! 13 Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it!

<u>II Corinthians 4:5,6 - 5</u> Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. <u>6</u> It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

<u>I John 1:8-10 - 8</u> If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. 9 On the other hand, if we admit our sins - make a clean breast of them - he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.

10 If we claim that we've never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God - make a liar out of him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God.

James 4:7-10 - 7 So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. 8 Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. 9 Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. 10 Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.