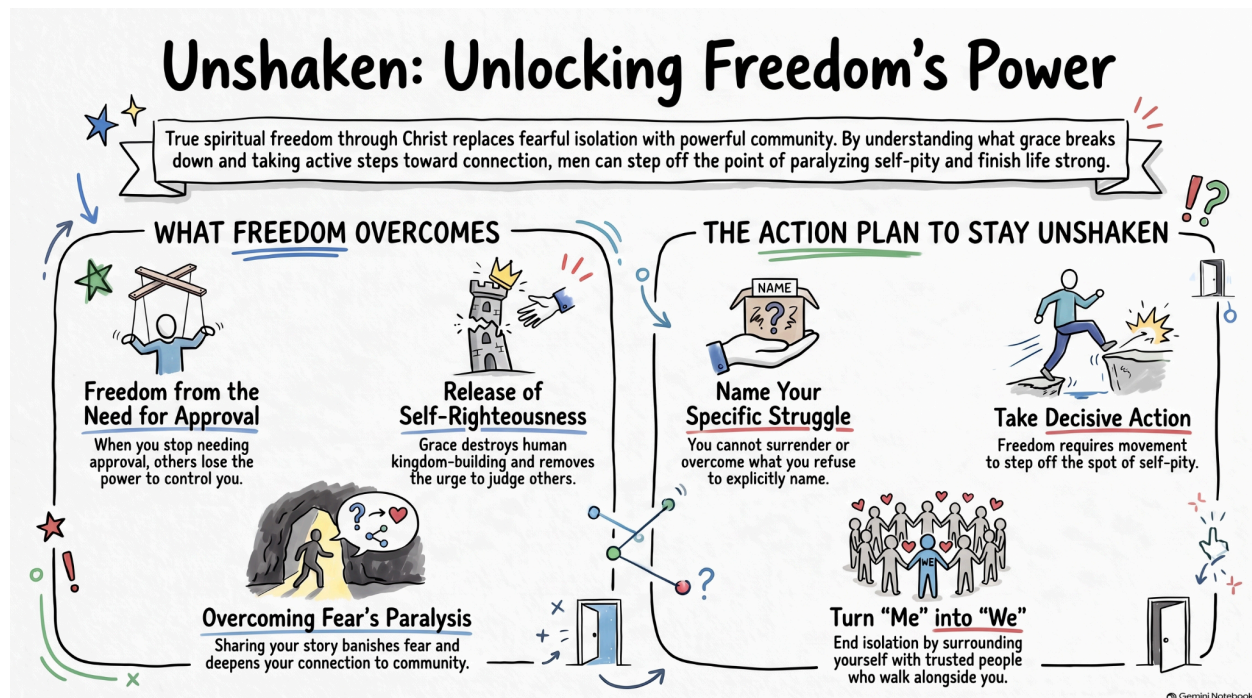




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Resilient

Transcription

Well, you know, good morning, good morning, good morning. My name is not Joe Barlow, it's Jeff Cook, but this is Men's Roundtable, glad you're here. Deer Camp Workday, Deer Camp Workday is this Saturday. I got the screen up there. David is on the Zoom call along with Joe Barlow. And the number to – well, that's the – yeah, we're going to put the number up later for the workday for RSVP and to David Hamilton. Here's David right there. David, you're here. That's my twin on the – Okay. So see David. He's in person. if you can help this weekend, David Hamilton. All right, so we are talking about freedom. You know, and I heard two quotes that really stood out to me lately on that topic. The first one is, you may have heard this before, around 100 times in the Bible is the phrase, do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. And the context of that often is when an angel appears, that there's so much holiness just from an angel that you're shook. You're like, can't move. Cannot move. I'm scared to death. I'm in fear of holiness. I don't know. But they say, don't be afraid. It's okay. It's okay. Don't be afraid. Don't be afraid. It's something to think about that sometimes when we're around that much holiness that we're just shook. and then Jesus comes along and says don't don't be afraid of holiness you know so that's something that made me think I hope I'll share with you and the other one was this um when you share your story uh that's the path to freedom right sometimes we're so scared to share our story and to say it and to say it that that we that we kind of are frozen and then we share our story and guys like yeah that's that's not I don't I've heard worse I've heard I've maybe done worse uh that did not make me think less of you I actually uh feel more um I respect you more because you shared your story. So that happens at deer camp, that happens over coffee with guys here. And I want to make sure that we understood that fear is not something that we allow to stop us from moving toward God, moving toward community. And so as we look at the topic of being unshaken, I think let's ask that question. Maybe it's a question like, what fears do I have that make me freeze. And why? Why does that cause all of us to freeze? And so let's, let's, let's, let's talk about that today. I know Phil, I don't feel has a lot of to talk about with the topic of freedom, but as we, as we look toward the question of what is

freedom, there's levels of freedom, right? And I think Jesus offers a completely different level of freedom when it relationship with God. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for today. We ask you to be with those that are on the road. Be with everybody that's going to be working up at Deer Camp this weekend, getting things ready. Be with Phil as he speaks and shares his message this morning. Be with us. Be with us. Help us to understand that we do not need to be afraid of you. We ask this in your son's name. We pray. Amen. Amen. Amen. Thank you, Jeff. Jeff, I want you to pull up the Walter debrief is what I call it, if you would. The unshaken summary that Walter Walford's been helping us up on the website. Good morning, gentlemen. Good to be here. Hal, you glad to be here? So am I. I'm glad to be anywhere at this season of my life. You know, just glad to be where my feet are planted. Be where your feet are. It's always a good thing. So as we get started this morning, I want again to thank Walter Wofford for what Walter is doing with an AI tool, no secrets there. But what Walter, you know, has stumbled onto, as we all stumble onto good resources, is a way to put in our presentation every Thursday, from Thursday morning, and then it creates like a 20-minute summary. And I'm listening to it, you know, on Saturday morning on my walk with Yofi, my dog, and man, it makes me sound so good. It's incredible. So I don't want you to listen to it because how good it makes me sound, but it's this man and woman dialoguing about what we've taught. And of course, I want you to listen, re-listen to the whole thing on Thursday, our podcast. But this summary, it's on our website, menstable.com. And it's just such a great resource. It's just powerful in how this tool captures all of the significant points, organizes it, and makes the presentation sound like a million dollars, you know. I could be famous, you know, someday. So, but I'm glad to just be honoring Jesus, and that's what we're trying to do, okay? So, that's a resource. Other thing before we get started this morning, I want to ask Lane, Lane, Lad, I used to know a guy named Lane, Lad to come and keep before you the opportunity to financially support our ministry. So, Lad, you did such a good job last week. We're going to let you do it again this week. Good morning, guys. I've been called Lane and many other names. But thank you for being here this morning. Last week, I don't know who all was here. Most of you were probably here, but we are trying to raise money for the administrative

expense of BPO. And that is what pretty much covers what we're here today for. Expenses of back office expenses, technology, that sort of thing. We're trying to raise \$48,000. This is going to be an ongoing expense every year. We've just been kind of patching holes through the years trying to fill this gap. But we really need your support. I've been praying about it all week that you guys would feel, you know, we're asking \$20 a week, basically. Need 50 guys to give 80 bucks a month. So if the Lord moves you to do that, I pray that you will. And thank you for your support. There's a QR code on the back of this. You can pull it up. And that is a, what is it, Zeppi? Zeppi. Zeppi. And so it's free. There's an expense charge on there, but for a nonprofit, it's free. So make sure you're aware of that. I actually did it myself, and I didn't check that. But it gives you the option later to go back and correct that. So pray about it, and I pray you guys will step up and help us with this. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Lad. Absolutely. So, yeah, I would just add to what Lane and Lad were saying. that Moses kept praying to God, God, what should I do? What should I do? And God told Moses, quit praying, get up, organize the people, get them in groups of 12, and then come back, and then I'll tell you what to do next. So I would just say, do as God told Moses, quit praying about it and get up and execute the QR code. We need your help. Thank you. So gentlemen, I'm excited about our time this morning. I want to dig into this idea of freedom's power. This is going to be a powerful session this morning because of what God's given us in the gospel. We are free. We're free indeed because of what Jesus has given us. But guys, we live as fearful orphans oftentimes, rather than powerful warriors. And I want to offer you a song this morning that's, it's a worship song. It's by good friend Wendell Kimbrough. Wendell, I met Wendell when I first moved to Fairhope, And Wendell was a part of our first men's coaching weekend down in Fairhope. Fish camp is what we call it down there. And Wendell, I always introduce Wendell as he's as talented as Chris Tomlin, but he's cheaper. But Wendell is a musician, and Wendell was so inspired, and his life was so affected by Fish Camp and being a part of our men's community in Fairhope that he's now in Michigan at Western Seminary up there getting his counseling degree. And that's one of the neat fruits of our ministry through Rone and his influence and working together that, I don't know, Rone and I have never really sat down and counted, but

we must have 20, 25 guys that have gone back to graduate school and gotten their counseling degree. Raymond's one of those guys. And, you know, I consider it an honor that it's part of the fruit of our ministry and equipping more men to help other men. But this song, Wendell's specialty, and you can listen, he's got several albums, and again, he's incredibly talented. But one of the things that Wendell does is he takes psalms, and he personalizes them, and puts them to music. When he came to fish camp, I'll have to play this song for you. He took Psalm 32, which we often read at deer camp. And if you read Psalm 32, I often say that's the Psalm that David wrote after he got back from deer camp, because it just details what we do at deer camp so beautifully. And Wendell took that Psalm and put it to music, and it's a powerful song. Again, I'll play it for you. But this song is so much mirrors the series that we're doing, Unshaken, and it comes out of Psalm 62. Jeff, last week, quoted Psalm 16, I will not be shaken was the phrase that Jeff quoted last week. Similar phrase in Psalm 62 is 62 verse 6. Psalm 62 verse 6 says this in the message. He's solid rock under my feet, breathing room for my soul, an impregnable castle. I'm set for life. That's the message. Now, in your study Bible, it reads something like this. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold. I shall not be shaken. So the song, I'll read just a couple of lines just to prime the pump here. Follow with me. Words of the song are on the back of your notes there. I'll not be shaken by Wendell Kimbrough. By the way, Wendell grew up in Mississippi, I think Mount Olive. Isn't that right? And his father was a pastor, is a retired pastor. But Wendell writes this. For God alone, I wait in silence. My soul is still before the Lord. He is my rock and my salvation, my fortress strong. I trust in him. I'll not be shaken. I'll not be shaken for all my hope is in his love. From God alone comes my salvation. I wait and trust his steadfast love. May you hear the voice of God and may he open our hearts to what he has for us this morning. Wendell Kimbrough, I will not be shaken. Get the sound up as loud as we go. For God alone I wait in silence. My soul is still before the Lord. He is my rock and my salvation, my fortress strong. I'll trust in Him. I'll not be shaken, I'll not be shaken, for all my hope is in His love. From God alone comes my salvation, I'll wait and trust His steadfast love. 1 Put not your heart in gain of riches; seek not your rest in empty wealth. The rich are weak, the poor are mighty,

who turn to God alone for help. I'll not be shaken, I'll not be shaken, for all my hope is in His love. From God alone comes my salvation I'll wait and lose His steadfast love Pour out your heart to God our refuge And trust in Him to hear you cry No other hope will never fail you No other love will not run dry I'll not be shaken, I'll not be shaken, for all my hope is in His love. I'm not alone, here comes my salvation. I'll wait and trust His steadfast love. Isn't the imagination and the creativity working through a man of God, working through a man, just a powerful expression of God's beauty? I mean, Wendell sat down with a piece of paper and a pen inspired by God and wrote that out. Absolutely beautiful. So Roger Corley is another one of our guys who went back and got his counseling degree, and Roger is a guy who keeps bringing men to us, and he has especially brought a man, his son, Colin. So Colin, we're so glad you're here this morning. So are you going to help me? Be on the alert. Be on the alert. Stand firm in your faith. Act like men. Be strong. Good job, Colin. Good job. Always great to have Colin in the house. So gentlemen, follow with me as we read our introductory paragraph. shaken. Freedom's power. Freedom is where the journey begins. Courage is how you fight the battle, and resilience is how you finish the race. Every man gets hit. And guys, that's what this series is so much about. Life ambushes us with failure, fear, shame, disappointment, loss, and exhaustion. This roundtable series is a call to get off the X, live as free men in Christ, and build the resilient heart that can stand back up, move forward, and finish strong. Our mission, set free, get off the X, stay resilient, finish strong. So guys, I have three questions for you that I want you to consider this morning. Three questions. Our session title, of course, is Freedom's Power. The power of truly being set free. So question number one that I would ask you is what power robs you of your freedom? What relationship, what circumstance or personal issue? Past trauma, fear, worry, something inside you that need for approval, need to be right, need for control, your own shame, your own fear, your own anger. What has power over you that God never intended to have power over you? What comes to your mind? What is my struggle? And guys, I've worked with men for over 30 years now. And there's no such thing as a man who's not in struggle. It's just the degree. You know, every guy in here, don't ever think that you're the worstest one. You know, well, you may be, you know. I don't

know about the worstest one. But point is, every man is fighting something. So what are you fighting? Question number two that we're going to work through this morning is what action do you need to take? Freedom requires movement. If you just sit, you will lose it. You will become a slave to that which you could walk away from. What action do you need to take? And then the third question, and this may be the most important question of them all, in a sense. The third question, who walks with you? Who is beside you through your most difficult times? and guys again as I've worked with men through the years the men who are in the most trouble are the isolated ones that's when it you know I can't change that relationship I can't change that circumstance I can't change that personal addiction or internal struggle that you wrestle with but man I'll put my arm around you and I'll walk with you if you let me do that so critical so critical. Who knows the real story about you? Who helps you get back up? Who tells you the truth? Who reminds you who you are? Guys, that's what we're going to work through this morning. So I want you to kind of jot down just a brief outline. You've got your outline, your handout. out in front of you, but this is kind of a way to summarize it in a better way, or in a briefer way, put it that way. So here's what I want you to write down. Find a spot to jot this down. Freedom's power, what grace brings. So if we really believe in the gospel and that we've been set free in the gospel, in Jesus, then we have a power available to us. We're no longer slaves. we're actually able and empowered to execute something very different that we would not be able to execute otherwise. We are free. You know, we talk a lot about being free men as Americans, and it's great. I mean, you know, we can walk out here and say about anything we want to, Good, bad, or ugly. And we're free. We're free. But what does it really mean to be free in Christ, free in Jesus? And this is what we have power over. Number one is leverage. That we are not subject to someone else. We actually have a leverage over our life. We actually have a power that gives us freedom over power over us. This idea of kingdoms ruling us. We're not ruled by kingdoms. And we are wall breakers. Break down those walls that hold us as slaves, and then a power over fear. Now, that's what we're talking about this morning. So the antithesis of each one of those, or what this freedom takes away, is this takes away this leverage. And so oftentimes we are enslaved to approval. I

am so afraid that you won't like me. I'm so afraid that you might be offended by me. But man, in Christ, as best I know how, I live on the truth. When I stop needing your approval, you lose the ability to control me with it. I don't have to perform to belong. I'm already accepted in Christ. I want you to look at Matthew chapter 20. Because again, freedom takes away these things. And Matthew 20 is a powerful passage where Jesus says, when the 10 others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers asking to be favorites. So Jesus got them together to settle the things down. Can you imagine Jesus stepping into a fight? You know? So Jesus steps in and he said, you've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Guys, that's not slavery. That's freedom. I don't have to be the guy. I don't have to be liked by you to have my life. I just have to be willing to bow the knee to Jesus. And the way up is down. You know, I'm not that smart. I don't have to have your approval. I am free in Christ. This idea number two there, freedom takes away power. When grace becomes the foundation of my life, other people no longer get to define my worth. You can't tell me who I am. You can have an opinion about me without having authority over me. And this same passage that we just read is a warning of authority. Somebody telling you, your boss at work, even your wife, a father telling you, you'll never amount to anything. You know, some of us in this room have had harsh things said to us by family members. And that's the hardest. A brother, a sister. It's like those things don't define me. You don't have that power over me. I'm free. And then this third one. So it's like, again, you, be it a family member or a boss or whomever, you don't have control over me. I'm free. I'm not subject to what you think of me. In this third one, you know, freedom, grace, destroys our own kingdom building. Freedom threatens the systems that we build to keep ourselves important, needed, and in control. But grace reminds me that this is God's kingdom, not mine. I don't have to be in charge to be secure. So again, I am free from my own self-righteousness. I don't have to convince you of how good I am, because I'm only good in the grace of God. I want you to turn over to Romans chapter 14. In Romans chapter 14, powerful reminder of just how our own self-righteousness is not something that we have to lobby for. in

order to be free. Look at this, Romans chapter 14. Welcome with open-armed fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with, even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently. We don't have to agree on everything. And if we don't agree on everything, it doesn't mean that you're bad and I'm good. For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another with a different background might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests, both are guests. Now listen to that. Both are guests at Christ's table. Wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? Guys, this criticism in the kingdom of God needs to stop. You know, pretentious Christians are just ugly. I don't want to be pretentious. I want to welcome you to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? We often say at Deer Camp, we just wear that word out. Welcome. Welcome. Glad you're here. Welcome. If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help. wow in other words God will do the correction I don't need to behave in ways that keep me looking down on other people don't do that don't do that you know there's things that I do that you would disagree with things that you do that I would disagree with I don't need to go around judging other people. Judgment is for God. That's not my role. I'm free to accept you and free to live my life under the banner of Christ, of course. It's not just freedom is back in the 70s, as we used to say, do whatever feels good. No, that just about got me killed. That was stupid. But my freedom is in Christ, that I'm forgiven, and that I can forgive others for what they do. I can welcome them to the table. So this idea of freedom breaking down walls, and again, the idea of the freedom breaking down walls, you know what it does? It stops divisioning, you know? Well, he's not a member of my team. I mean, it'd be like, and we all have fun with football. You know, I'm a Tennessee fan. You know, you're a Mississippi State fan. You're an Ole Miss fan. Dude, really? You're going to look down on people. I wouldn't sit with him. He's an Ole Miss guy. You know, or, oh, those Tennessee

volunteers, they're ridiculous. I'm not doing that. I mean, dude, as silly as that sounds on the football field, it's worse in the church. You know, those Baptists, those Methodists, those Presbyterians, and oh my goodness, those Episcopalians, they drink wine all day. I mean, stupid stuff like that. I mean, stupid. No, nobody cares. I guarantee when you get to heaven and you stand before God, he's not, the first question is now, where do you go to church? that is not the first question you know now the first question will be something more like so why should I let you into my heaven and you better you better have that answer there's only one answer to that question you don't want the answer to that question I hope you do I'm going to give it to you right now And the only answer is, is because I put my faith in what you provided for me that I couldn't provide for myself in the person of Jesus Christ. That is the only reason that I would enter your heaven. One question. One question. And then this last piece, freedom. Freedom. Freedom. Freedom can be frightening. It's this idea, again, that I, as a free man, I get to make a choice, and I can choose. I'm free to choose. I'm even free to choose to be bad. But I've got to make that choice. I've got to make that choice. you don't make it for me free means free I don't open I don't obey God so he will love me I am free to obey because he already does now I want to read to you out of Steve Brown's book this is the book again that I want you to read through the series A Scandalous Freedom he tells a powerful story of freedom. And it's about Reverend Thomas J. Quinlan, a 71-year-old chain smoker with a voice like sandpaper, quote-unquote, was written about him. Listen to this. He once rode down the center aisle of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Norfolk on a police motorcycle for a Palm Sunday procession. Now, this guy's cool. I actually saw, I was at a Promise Keepers conference years ago in Colorado Springs, and Chuck Swindoll rode a motorcycle on the stage. Another time, he dressed like Superman during a worship service in order to make a point. They try to keep Quinlan in line, but he will have none of it. He doesn't like playing footsie with authority, and he hates the trappings of power. The funny thing about Reverend Quinlan is that the churches he serves keep growing. In fact, one church he served tripled both in attendance and in giving. Everywhere Quinlan serves, the members of the church become involved in ministry. So, despite his funny ways, God is

doing something through him in a wonderful and delightful way. Last year, Quinlan, who has struggled with alcoholism for many years, was arrested for drunk driving. He went to his congregation and confessed, telling them that he would leave willingly. But all along, he had set them free and taught them well. Do you know what they said to him? We don't want you to leave. We want you to change. Those dear folks, the reporter said, loved him in two sobriety. That's it. They got it. They got it. Because most pastors would have lost their job and just been fired in that situation. We can be so cruel to the ones that we should be gathering around and loving them. Many of us that are counselors, Roan and Roger and Raymond and others that maybe I'm not seeing, our alumni guys, guys, we do the best that we know how to come around men who are broken. We don't let you tell your story and then say, well, dude, you did that? We don't. We can't have that around here. No. What we typically say is me too. Only worse. Only worse. Worser. Worser. Thank you, Marty. Thank you for correcting me. Yeah, worse, sir. So, guys, here's what I want you to consider this morning. I want you to follow this pattern that we're working with. I mean, this whole series is built on these four pillars. The four pillars. Freedom. I am free. So don't be a slave. again to leverage and power and kingdom building and walls and fear. No, my approval is in Christ. I'm not controlled by others. My self-righteousness is worthless. I am righteous in Christ, and I don't have to be divided into different denominations or whatever, and I have the freedom to choose my direction because I'm not a slave. But it's going to take getting off the X. And I have to live courageously. Jason Redmond, the Navy SEAL that we've talked about, has a great pattern, and I'll share that with you next week, of how to get off the X. But it's like, are you going to stay here in self-pity? Do you want me? You've come into my counseling room today. Have you come into the counseling room for me to feel sorry for you? Well, guess what? I don't. That would be the worst kind of response to your hurt is I feel sorry for you. No. Okay. I get it. You're in pain. she has hurt you, you have hurt her, you're struggling with an addiction, you've got fear, you've got shame, all of that. Okay, well get off the X, let's get moving. You know, grab your backpack, fill it full of all the necessities that God wants you to have, full of his grace, and let's start walking. But you're going to have to be resilient, and you're going to have

to wait on God, Isaiah 40, and you're going to persevere to the end. So here's the three questions. Let's go back to our three questions, and we'll close with this. What power robs you of your freedom? And guys, I would just say this. You cannot surrender what you refuse to name. You cannot surrender what you refuse to name. Hello, my name is Phil, and I'm an alcoholic, is what the AA model teaches us. It's beautiful. And it's just like, you know, I sit with people all day, and they'd rather yell at their wife, blame their wife, than own their own sin. You cannot surrender what you refuse to name. Name it. What is your problem? What has power over you that's making you a slave? And then the second question is you've got to take action. So I would just ask you to consider what action do you need to take today with that struggle that you're dealing with? What's God bringing to your mind right now? I trust the Holy Spirit is moving in this room. I believe that every Thursday morning, that the Holy Spirit does a much, much better job than I do of communicating God's truth. What is God saying to you right now? What action do you need to take? What phone call do you need to make? Where do you need to bow the knee? Where do you need to ask for help? And then third and finally, and I said to you, this may be the most important question of all. Who is your who? Who is your who? Who knows about your struggle? Who needs to know about your struggle? Where do you need to get help from? If you try to go this alone and you do this out of isolation, you will fail miserably. But when you start making a me problem, a we solution, everything changes. Take your me problem and make it a we solution. You know why you do that? Because you're free in Jesus, in Christ. Let's close and pray. Father, thank you for our time this morning. Thank you for the power of your word, the power of freedom in our lives that allow us to live in a different way. We're so grateful. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen. Have a great week.