

## Christians Who Are Free In The Spirit

### I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Plan one to two icebreakers for the purpose of mixing around and getting group participation or getting acquainted.

### II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead people into God's presence. During this time, cell leaders will encourage cell members to listen to the Holy Spirit and release the words of **strengthening, encouragement, and comfort** they have received for the **cell group, the church and nations**. Upon each word shared, the cell leader will lead members by thanking and praising God for His promise and/or praying aloud together for the needs, etc.

During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for: (1) the mission organization or daughter church that the cell group adopts (2) the church ministry needs (3) blessings for new comers, the sick.

**MISSION ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_, their needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

**CHURCH MINISTRY:**

### III. WORD, 45 mins.

#### A. Sharing from last Sunday's message.

1. What is the main message from last Sunday sermon? What did God say to you from the message?

2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

#### B. Discussion Topic: "Christians who are free in the spirit"

**Scriptures:** 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

**Memory Verse:** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV)

The believers of Corinth at the time often use the worldly methods in treating the servants of the Lord. If someone came with the recommendation letter of celebrities, the person would be treated with special respect and treatment. However Paul didn't come with recommendation letters from anyone! But the fruits of his labor were shown clearly in the changes in the lives of the Corinthian believers. Hence Paul said that "You yourselves are our letter" (2 Corinthians 3:2 NIV).

The manifestation of beauty in one's life is from the power of transformation of Christ in us, which allows us to live out the glory of God. This is the best recommendation letter that we can exhibit to the world. It is also one where everyone can read and experience! You only have to allow the Spirit working freely in you so that the glory of Christ can be demonstrated in you. Then naturally you become the best recommendation letter for Lord Jesus to present to the world!

You and I both are the recommendation letters for the everlasting Spirit of God to the world. Let us welcome the work of the Spirit so that each one of us can become Christians who are free in the spirit.

#### 1. Christians who are not free in the spirit due to obstruction of veil (2 Corinthians 2:14):

##### 1. Dreadfulness of the veil:

- a. **Will cause you to be unable to see the work of the Spirit** (2 Corinthians 3:1): Only see the work of man (recommendation letters of man) but not the work of God. When Paul was in Damascus, he thought he was zealous for God. But when in fact he was hindering the work of God (Acts 9). When the scales on his eyes fell off, his life was turned around completely and he became one who's free in the spirit.
- b. **Will affect you luminosity** (2 Corinthians 3:7, 13): The Lord said, "You are the light of the world. (Matthews 5:14 NIV)." This is because you have the life of the Lord inside (John 1:9). The main use for you is being a vessel of light for Him. The purpose of light is to illuminate the darkness. But the dreadful veil can block the light.
- c. **It will cause deficiencies in your ministry** (2 Corinthians 3:7-11): When we serve with veils: [1] It will not be remembered because we cause others to be unable to see the light of God. [2] We will not be able to serve for long because we serve with our own flesh. [3] It brings condemnation: We will do according to our own ideas and preferences because we are not in the Truth. This brings condemnation to one another and leads people to stumble and get hurt.

## 2. Types of veils:

- a. **Veil of sin** (2 Corinthians 3:7-11): The Law was etched on the stone tablets. Its purpose was to let us be conscious of sin (Romans 3:20). No one is able to fulfill the law: Adam ate the fruit of knowing good and evil (Genesis 3); Moses was unable to enter into the promise land after striking the rock in anger (Deuteronomy 32:51-52); David sinned (2 Samuel 11)... etc.! The Law is intended to enable us to see our sins, and not resolve the problem with our sins. The only way to resolve this is through the blood of Christ Jesus. The purpose of the Law is to lead us to the Christ to receive salvation. Christ is the culmination of the Law. All who believe in Him are made righteous with God (Romans 10:4).
- b. **The veil of unbelief** (2 Corinthians 3:12-16): [1] Complete unbelief: Don't believe that the Lord is the Messiah and even crucifies Him on the cross. No part in salvation (John 3:18). [2] Believes in the head that there is God. However this has nothing to do with oneself. It is only something to talk about but cannot be experienced (Acts 17:21). [3] Incomplete belief: One does believe in Him, however the focus is away from the Lord frequently. Will suffer a lot (Matthews 14:30).
- c. **The veil of unwillingness** (2 Corinthians 3:14): Due to the hardness of the heart, one is unwilling to follow His ways and obey His commands. Hence one will be unable to receive the rewards (1 Corinthians 9:25 – everlasting crown, 2 Timothy 4:8 – crown of righteousness, Hebrews 2:7 – crown of glory and honor, James 1:2 – crown of life, 1 Peter 5:4 – never fading crown of glory).

## 2. Remove the veil to become a Christian that's free in the spirit:

1. **You need to be determined to remove the veil** (2 Corinthians 3:4-6): This determination is the result of the faith that comes from God. It is also because of the faith that arises after getting to know Christ. When you are willing to be humble and obedient with your heart turned to the Lord and willing to give the sovereignty of your life to the Lord, the veil will fall off automatically.
2. **You need to welcome the Spirit** (2 Corinthians 3:17): It is not through our knowledge or will that our spirits can become free. But rather it is through the Spirit that works within our hearts. The Spirit has already resided in us. Are you willing to let Him work freely? You need to welcome Him to do His work and let His work be manifested completely so that you will receive genuine freedom.
3. **You need to see** (2 Corinthians 3:18): When the Spirit of the Lord works

mightily within you, you will become more like the Lord. It's like the look of the smiles on the babies. You can tell who spent the most time with the baby and is the closest to the baby by the similarities between the looks. You need to open up the eyes of your heart to see the glory of the Lord and obey the Spirit in His work so that you will become more and more like the Lord Himself. This way you can be a Christian (little Christ) that is truly free in the spirit.

### *Discussion Questions:*

1. **Who is the best recommendation letter for Christ in your life? What did you see on that person? Are you willing to be the recommendation letter to your family, cell group members and neighbors?**
2. **What is the most dreadful veil in your heart? Why can't it be removed?**
3. **Why are the lives of some people especially attractive to you? What is the special characteristic of their lives?**
4. **Are there veils in the cell group? What are they? What effects can they bring? How can they be removed? What is your dream cell group like?**
5. **How can one become a Christian that is free in the spirit?**
6. **Talk about your spiritual life! Cell group leader please lead the members in proclaiming the word of God (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). Remember to see if there's more glory of the Lord on each other in the meeting next week. Reminder to everyone: You should attend cell group meetings regularly.**

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we welcome Your Spirit to enter and to work in our lives! We entreat that You reign in our lives and mold us completely so that we can be more like You! May Your Spirit work freely in our lives so that we can be completely free. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

## IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.