

One Would Never Suspect

Bill Brinkworth

N.'s family was one of the most faithful families in the little Romanian church. They hardly ever missed services. They were an integral part of the church's soul-winning ministry. N., however, fought their dedication at every opportunity. He never wanted to go with his family to the services. He did not want to go to any of the church activities. The young Romanian was very cold to conversations concerning anything about the Lord. Often, he would leave church before the services were over. Sometimes his resistance kept his family from even attending.

The church's pastor, Missionary Patrick Boyle, was building his family's house. He had taken out a loan to purchase essentials for the house, including sinks, toilets, and faucets. These, along with his tools, were left in the unfinished house, while he went home to where he was temporarily staying. When he returned the next day, he was shocked to find everything he had purchased, and much that was left in the house, was gone. He had been robbed!

The missionary's first reaction to the crime was anger. Soon the anger caused him to look down on

the people. "Here we come to help these people, and they rob us," entered his mind. He started wondering who it was that had robbed him. Most were possible suspects of the burglary of his property. He was overcome with the evil done against him. Then the ever-present, small "voice" of the Holy Spirit reminded the missionary's heart that they were not there for faucets, toilets, or even the house. They were there because God called him to minister to the gypsy people. Soon, Patrick decided to overcome evil with good. No matter whom they encountered, he was determined to treat all kindly. He doubled his efforts to win the people over to Christ by being a good example.

A year had gone by, and N. started coming back to church. It was not long until this young man was attending every service. He was now interested and growing mightily in living for the Lord.

One day N. had a private conversation with the missionary. Then, as difficult as it was for him, N. confessed to being the one who had stolen the house's contents. He apologized for what he had done. He admitted that his goal was to hurt the work and prove to himself that the missionaries had an easy life and did

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The Bible View



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Don't You Know You're Free?

Bill Brinkworth

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

In an attempt to retrieve an escaped rooster, I set out a live trap in hopes of retrieving him. In the morning I was surprised to see that I did not trap the escapee, but in his place was an opossum.



My intent was not to catch the local wildlife, so I purposed to set him free. I raised the trap door at one end and forced it to stay open with a nearby brick. After gently prodding the animal to leave, the entrapped marsupial would not vacate.

I walked away hoping that when I was not around, he would leave his captivity through the open door. One hour later he was still there.

I found a thin stick and tried to push him out of the trap. He re-

fused to turn around and flee. He backed up so that his tail and hind legs were in freedom, but still he remained confined. If I stopped my prodding, he would return back deep into his prison. After many minutes and attempts to push him out with the goad, he finally did turn around and fled to the woods.

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Bought to be Freed

Evangelical International High School Quarterly

A young girl was being sold at auction one day. She was a beautiful girl, tall and slender. The bidding began, and quickly mounted higher and higher until at last only two men were left bidding for her ownership; the one a low, uncouth fellow who swearingly raised his bid every time to outbid the other, a quiet man of refinement. Finally, the bidding stopped, and to the quiet gentleman who had bid so very earnestly were given the papers

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Don't You Know ...

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While endeavoring to free the opossum, I realized how similar the situation was for so many Christians. Folks have found themselves slaves to their sin. They are trapped by its unrelenting hold on their life. They mourn being slaves to their controlling lusts and other iniquities, but are not able to do anything about freeing themselves from its bondage.

Finally, they hear how they can escape the penalty of their sin. They trust Christ as their Saviour and become "born-again" children of God. Their sins are forgotten and forgiven (Ps. 32:1, 103:12), but they still remain subject to their sinful behavior. They continue in the sins that they were saved from. Although they could be free and have a more joyous and productive life, they remain in the same state they were in originally.

Just as that opossum had to turn around and purposely leave his cell, so must a believer make the move to leave his present condition. He is free from the eternal wages of sin, but he has to put "feet" to his repentance. He has to turn around and go the new direction God has for him, as scary or

different as it may seem.

It may involve leaving the fellowship of the wrong crowd. Not going to the places where the temptation to do activities unpleasing to God's commandments is an important step that must be done. Stop doing what you now feel uneasy about doing. Do not participate in what you believe God would not have you do.

Instead of feeding the flesh with what it wants to do, one must gratify the new need for spiritual food. Daily reading the Word of God for yourself is essential, as is obeying what is revealed for you to do in its pages. Consistently talking to God in prayer and attending a Bible-believing and obeying church is also important.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1

The door to a new life in Christ is wide open and awaiting you. It offers changes and opportunities that you could never imagine; but you must choose to walk away from the "old life", and let God guide you to the new.

Bought to be Freed

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which made him the lawful owner of the young girl.

With a shove the auctioneer presented her to her new master. Proud and defiant to her new master, she stood before him, hating him with every part of her being. Suddenly, a change came over her face. First, there was a look of pure amazement, closely followed by one of utter incredulity. Her owner was ripping up the papers of ownership, and, with a smile of kindness, said to the now trembling girl, "My dear, you are free. I bought you that I may free you."

Too stunned for speech, the girl merely stared, until finally with a cry of happiness too deep for words, she cast herself at the man's feet, and through her tears exclaimed, "Oh, master, I'll love you and serve you for life!"

What the papers of ownership could not do, the man's kindness had won completely. The Lord Jesus has loved you and has paid such a price that He might buy you from the slavery of sin and free you. Will you not tell Him, "Master, I'll love Thee and serve Thee for life?"



One Would Never ...

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not really care for him or his people. He truly expected the missionary and his family to leave, but they did not! It was soon evident to N. that the family had to do without because of his stealing the house's contents. They did not go out and buy new things to replace their loss. The missionary's reaction to what had been done against him had convicted N's heart.

It was not long until the Romanian ex-thief got saved. At one time, the missionary had thought that N. was one of those that "probably would never get saved!" Now the young man is one of the most faithful in the congregation. He is a devoted soul-winner and is even training to be a pastor. Many times when the Pastor was away it was N. who would fill in and preach in the Romanian church.

The Holy Spirit's power to convert lives is amazing. Some of the "hardest" and most wicked hearts are mere putty in the hands of God. He can change all that are willing. For many, they have to reach the "bottom" before they can be changed. For each of us the "bottom" is different. We would never suspect whom God would change, or whom He would use. Many may have thought the same about us before we were saved. I am so glad God does not give up on us "impossible" cases.

“What we mean by salvation is this: **deliverance from the love of sin, rescue from the habit of sin, and setting free from the desire to sin.”** — C. H. Spurgeon

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Rom. 6:22