



Samuel

God, gods & freedom

1 Samuel – Chapters 4 thru 7 (NKJV)



What is Freedom?

1. **You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3)**
 - Anything that takes value *above* God or is *equal* to God in your life
2. **You shall not make for yourself a carved image <graven image> (verses 4-6)**
 - Defining God as you see Him rather than who He really is

There was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again. [Then], the head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it - 1 Samuel 5:1-6

(Dagon – Represented allegiance, and he was their provider) But –



The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want (Psalm 23)

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:25-26 – NIV

.....
God **makes** me happy, everything else **adds** to my happiness
_____ doesn't make me happy, it adds to my happiness
.....

...And all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord. Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods...among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." 1 Samuel 7:2-4

Your *whole self* must be submitted to the Lord
75% obedience/submission won't do
God must be present to heal, and to win



Then Samuel took a stone and set it up...and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." 1 Samuel 7:12

When you are free to sin, you become its slave...
...When you are a slave of Christ, then you become free in Him...

Freedom does not mean you are free to do whatever you desire
Freedom means your desires change, and your heart is healed

..... The Call – Is the Lord your Rock of help?