

LIVING TO DO GOD'S WILL, NOT OUR OWN

Note to the speaker:

Explain how mankind came under slavery to sin and how one can be set free by exercising faith in Christ's ransom. Appreciation should move us to demonstrate our faith in the ransom by how we live

A SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE PERMEATES MODERN SOCIETY (3 min.)

A measure of independence is desirable, for no one wants to be completely dependent on other humans

However, today's world is dominated by an unbalanced, irreverent spirit of independence from God

Satan is the source of this pervasive spirit (Eph 2:2)

This demonic spirit impels people to rebel against all authority and any restraints imposed on their desires
(*lv* 53-54 ¶7-8)

TRUE FREEDOM INVOLVES DEPENDENCE ON GOD AND JESUS (10 min.)

The vast majority of humans believe that they are free, but they are actually in slavery to sin

[Read Romans 6:16]

Some are raised in lands where the concept of being a sinner is unfamiliar; others simply do not believe in sin (*w11* 6/15 8-9 ¶9-12)

The Bible teaches that Adam and Eve were real people who were created free from sin

They had the prospect of everlasting life if they obeyed God (Ge 2:16, 17)

By his disobedience, Adam willfully chose independence from God and became a sinner (1Ti 2:14)

Adam lost the prospect of everlasting life for himself and all his offspring (Ge 3:19; Ro 5:12)

Jehovah God lovingly arranged for a ransom to set mankind free from sin and death **[Read Romans 6:23]**

The ransom provides a basis for forgiveness of sins; we must exercise faith in it (*w10* 8/15 13-14 ¶8-11)

Because of the ransom, we can enjoy true freedom and the prospect of everlasting life

LIVE DAILY TO DO JEHOVAH'S WILL (14 min.)

All should show appreciation to the Source of life, Jehovah God, and to his Son, Christ Jesus, who gave his life in behalf of mankind (Mt 20:28; Ac 17:26-28)

We show our appreciation by choosing to do God's will instead of our own **[Read 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15]**

Doing God's will requires that we take steps to become dedicated, baptized Witnesses of Jehovah if we have not yet done so

It is not enough merely to enjoy Bible teachings and associate with those who do God's will

The steps to baptism include repenting of our sins and rejecting bad practices (*w13* 3/15 17, box)

Dedication to God involves willingly disowning ourselves (Mt 16:24; *w05* 3/15 11-12 ¶8)

After we have made such a dedication in prayer, we should symbolize it publicly by water baptism
(Mt 28:19; Ro 10:10)

Whether we are baptized or are progressing toward baptism, we must continuously reject a selfish course

Flee from sexual immorality **[Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20]**

Avoid associations and entertainment that promote unclean thoughts and conduct (Eph 5:3; *g* 9/13 5)

Do not strive for wealth or develop a love for material possessions (1Ti 6:9, 10)

Jesus said that we "cannot serve for God and for Riches" (Mt 6:19-24)

In imitation of Jesus, we should use our time and energy to help others

Help them come to know the truth about Jehovah God and his Kingdom (Mt 9:36-38)

Willingly and humbly assist others, and help care for their needs (Joh 13:3-5, 12-15; *w15* 2/15 8-9 ¶14-16)

STRENGTHEN YOUR RESOLVE TO LIVE FOR GOD'S WILL (3 min.)

We need to remind ourselves constantly of our dependence on God and Jesus

Acknowledge in prayer that our life is from God and our hope for the future depends on our faith in the ransom

Make decisions, not as an independent person, but as a servant of the true God

By strengthening our determination to do God's will, we can enjoy everlasting blessings **[Read Romans 6:22]**

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]