



Noland Road Baptist Church • 4505 S. Noland Road • Independence, MO 64055 • 816-373-0106 • nolandroadbaptist.org

True Freedom

Now the LORD is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV

I grew up in a Christian family and accepted Christ at 12. But one can follow the path of my life by following the destruction. I couldn't figure out why I kept making such horrid decisions finding myself in one mess after another. Forty plus years after my salvation I was still alive but just barely. I was hanging on by a thread. From the outside it was becoming apparent. Up until then I 'appeared' to be 'together'.

I had no idea who I was. I didn't love myself. How could I, after what I had done! How could anyone love me? I was an awful person. I did terrible things. I hurt people. Trampled over them stampeding through life without any idea where I was going or any idea what my actions were doing to those around me. The abuse, broken relationships, disappointments and addictions caused frustration and anger, which led to depression and more of the same. The harder I tried to fix myself and the problems the worse it all became.

I believe in Christ. He died on the cross for my sins. Praise God He took

my sins upon Himself to the cross. He died there. Was buried. And rose from the grave. He conquered the grave. For me! But what does that mean? What did that really do? Why was I still trapped in this cage? Why was I still in this bondage of defeat, despair and destruction?

What I didn't realize is – Jesus took it ALL!! He left NONE of the sin behind when He went to the cross! Not any! All of it was gone! There isn't a sin He didn't take with Him. From the little white-lie to murder so long as we believe in Him! He went to the cross to conquer death...death the wage of sin. He rose after the third day and conquered sin. What power! Imagine all the sin of every believer in history and the future carried by Christ to the cross – Christ buried – and Christ ROSE from the dead. Victor over death and sin. The mighty power of God brought Him from the grave so that we could have eternal life with Him. It is the power that can change anyone!

This power is freedom: Freedom from the burden of sin, freedom from satan's grip, freedom in knowing I

am Jesus' child. I don't have to fix my past mistakes. Rather I will trust and rely on Him and the Holy Spirit who lives in me...one day at a time, one step at a time, one choice at a time. God chose me. Loves me so much He sent His Son to take upon Himself all my sin so that I would be justified – proclaimed innocent, not having sin. It is a miracle! I can hardly fathom it. I am free! I am loved! I am His!

☺ Diana Bellew

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Thursday, July 8, 7 pm
Too Close to Home
 By Lynette Eason
 Home of Carolyn Cordell

PROJECT LINUS

Tuesday, July 20
 10 am – Noon

True Freedom Word Search

F	T	V	B	K	C	A	C	E	V	E	I	L	E	B
R	G	A	B	H	R	L	R	W	A	Y	M	I	B	P
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	O	H	I	S	S	F	U	E
E	B	R	O	S	M	F	S	C	I	T	I	A	R	N
D	Q	H	U	J	J	U	S	T	I	F	I	E	D	I
O	P	T	J	S	Z	T	M	J	Z	J	W	B	E	G
M	E	W	S	I	T	U	A	O	L	O	V	E	N	A
J	Y	H	K	N	U	R	A	G	P	B	Y	S	M	M
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P	W	C	N	B	J	E	S	U	S	R	V	R	G	L

ALL BELIEVE FUTURE HIS IMAGINE JESUS JUSTIFIED LOVE CONQUER CROSS ETERNAL FREEDOM
 BURDEN CONQUER CROSS ETERNAL FREEDOM
 SIN TRUST



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Keep a Smile On Your Faith™ Revisited

- WHEN:** Monday Evenings, July 26 - Aug 30, 6-8 pm
- WHERE:** Christine's Corner, 14100 E 42nd — Special Hours exclusively for this study!
- SUPPLIES:** Journal — \$5 available for purchase at the store
 Glue, glue stick or tape, colored pencils, crayons or markers
 Additional supplies are optional and available for purchase at 20% discount or bring your own
 Your Bible

Join Carla Valet to take a fresh look at the truths taught at our April retreat. Artistic talents are NOT required to participate!

Sign up online or at the Women by Design table beginning July 11th.