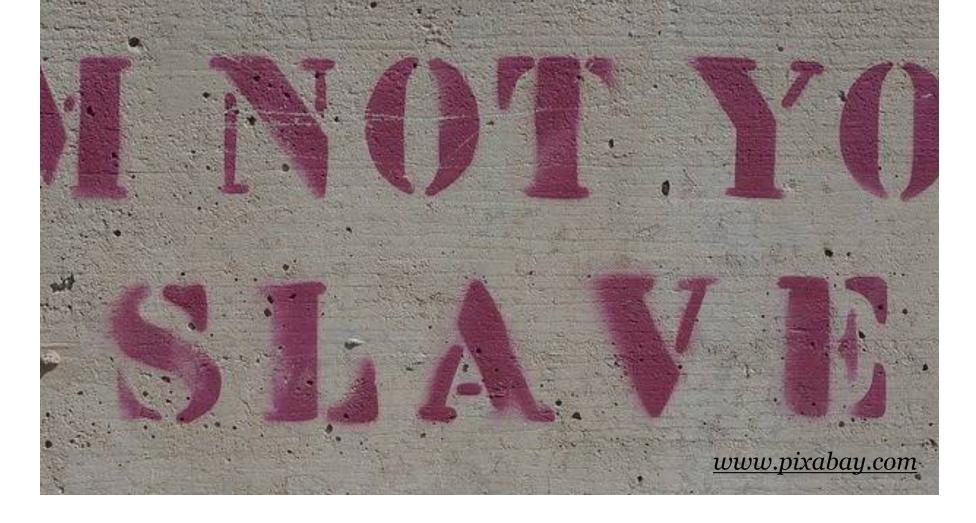




From the desk of your friend in Christ Jesus,





Celebrate God freeing you into His bondage to righteousness.

"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"

(Romans 6:16 NAS77 emphasis mine)



NOT BY NUMBERS NOR BY PRINCIPLES

freedom is gained by enslavement to righteousness.

SLAVES know they are SLAVES by losing their ability to be self-determined. But what if our ability to choose loses its radiance when we realize we can only decide between things sponsored by a greater. If our choices are limited to predetermined vehicles that can only deliver us to calculated ends are we then not SLAVES?

Aroused to the reality of our restricted choices and incapacity to create any choice we desire, we live this life as SLAVES to predetermined possible outcomes. In facing this *probable* reality, how can we achieve the universal desire to be free? Instead, why not ask, "Where does this desire come from?". Though painful, there is a Biblical answer.

"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the

desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks **from his own nature**; for he is a liar, and the father of lies." (John 8:44 NAS77 emphasis mine)

Your sonship to the devil is publicly declared when, at some time and in some way, you have rejected Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. It works like this, God declares your possible choices by, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:17 NAS77) Either you agree with God or not. But where does the ability to oppose God originate? The answer is sharp and cuts deep, "Satan".



Your soul, by virtue of being born attached to the flesh, has this propensity to think it is both separate from any controlling force and independent of any god. In fact, from birth, we are all SLAVES to the spirit who is thinking itself independent of God. Even the thought of thinking you can make an independent choice is the *deception* inherited by Satan's very thoughts at the moment.

This is a very, very important truth. The thought that you are independent of anyone greater is not your thought. Living, thinking you have a choice that supersedes God is the Liar himself proving we are SLAVES to his lies. The very belief that you live between two forces and can choose one over the other is that ugly fruit from the Garden of Eden still producing death. But then, in a moment of clarity, you discover, "...when you were SLAVES of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness." (Romans 6:20 NAS77 emphasis mine)

It is an either/or situation.

You are either alive to reject Christ, which is Satan's thought in and through you, or alive to accept Christ, which is the Spirit of Christ ruling your thought, in and through you.