



Let Freedom Ring

*Happy
New Year*

All Praise to Him

January 2016



**Cooler
temperatures
coming.**

**Let's thank God
for *today's*
great Florida
weather.**

In this issue

FROM THE PASTOR	3
QUESTION & ANSWER by Pastor Filmore	4
SINGLE'S UPDATE Sister Tonja Filmore	5
THE FINAL 'F' WORDS Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown	6
THANK YOU Mother Vanessa Darwood	7
WHAT MESSAGE ARE YOU SENDING GOD? Sister Tonja Filmore	8
THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW by Pastor Filmore	9
JANUARY 2016 CALENDAR See what's happening this month	

Service Times

10:30 a.m. Sunday School
12:00 p.m. Sunday Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Shavah Prayer
7:00 p.m. Thursday Bible Study

*You can visit our website:
Acalltofreedom.com and our Facebook*

Email: zjbirdsong@gmail.com

Write: Freedom Ministries Church
1348 Old Apopka Road
Apopka, Florida 32703

*Deadline to submit next articles:
Sunday, January 31st*



We are truly blessed to witness the completion of the year **2015** and to expectantly look forward to what God is about to do for **2016**. Look at God and how He has brought us through **2015** with healings, deliverances of all kinds; we are anxious to see how He will reveal Himself to us and how He will grow us in **2016**. We are genuinely excited, knowing that He will do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we can ask or think, by His power that is at work in us that are **Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ**. We **commit ourselves** to grow in grace and in the **Lord Jesus Christ** so that we might experience the power of God in our lives on a constant basis; so that men might come to know Him as **Saviour, Redeemer, and Lord**. We give God praise for our church family and our individual families that we have a chance to appreciate and show love on a consistent basis. Knowing that they don't have to be right all of the times in order for us to love and appreciate them. All we have to do is to see them as God sees us; knowing that we are in the process, yet He loves us as we are but is determined to not leave us as He found us. **What a God**. So that our final end is not like He found us. We have our **Annual Business Meeting** scheduled for the 7th of January, so come on out and see what God is doing in our ministry. Praise the Lord. Thank God for the addition of **Ministers Cedric and Angie Thomas** to the staff of **Freedom Ministries Church** and for their first sermons. **Minister Angie Thomas** did an outstanding job in her first sermon entitled "**Oh But I'm Glad**" and was well received by those in attendance. Great job, **Minister Angie**. We also welcome the return of **Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown** to the staff. God is preparing us for what He has in mind. Let us listen and be attentive to His instructions so that we can be doers of His Word and not just hearers only. Thank God for **Minister Melvin L. Birdsong, his wife Jean**, and his staff that prepared breakfast for the church and the community that came out to our **2015 Watchnight Service**. What a heart for serving. Thank you **Minister Birdsong**. Thank **Brother Tony Jenkins, his wife, Tiffany** and his staff for putting together the **Youth Christmas Banquet** and for **Sister Tonja Filmore** and staff putting together the **Single's Christmas Banquet**. The **Single's** have an event scheduled on **January 23rd**. Thank God that our groups are up and running and are exciting. We are looking forward to the visions that God is giving to our leaders so that they can appreciate God in fellowship and fun in a godly environment. **Ministers Paul and Libby Brown** already checked out the places for our **Men's 2016 Retreat**. Thank God for their forwardness in preparations. **Shavah Prayer, Youth Ministry, Singles, Bible Studies, Sunday School with Pastor Girley as teacher, and the preaching of the Word of God** is on the menu for **2016**. **You are invited to come and dine with us as we grow in the Lord. Saints of God, let us Get together and work for the kingdom of God, to make disciples of men for Christ's sake.**



How Do I Want To Reveal Myself To God?

by Pastor Freddie Filmore

God is so transparent to us, so that He has given to us His Holy Spirit in order that we might be transparent to Him, even though He already knows everything about us; yet He loves us. In the early days of drama and the theater, actors wore masks. God is encouraging us to take off the mask and show ourselves for who we are. If there is a character flaw, fix it and continue to live before God in a manner that is pleasing to Him. Keep in mind, He already know everything about us, and He yet loves us. Remember John 3:16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** What love that He has already demonstrated. He has already paid the price, the blood of His Son, death was the price that He paid, even though we were the culprits that sinned against Him. He made the first move. The ball is in our court, what are we going to do? We can't fake it. Our **character** is revealed when we are alone and no one is watching. That is who we really are. Do you like what you see? If not change it. God already took the first step in making provision for us to reestablish ourselves like He first made Adam and Eve; in His likeness, and in His image. Sin messed us up. We were living in Paradise until we sinned and were banished from the garden. God made provisions for us to be restored through the person of Jesus Christ. All you and I have to do is to say and mean it "Yes" to His Will and to His Word and to live continually for Him. Acts 17:28 let's us know that **"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are**

also his offspring." We are born again of the Spirit of God. God is our Father, praise the Lord. Let us now love the Lord our God with all of our heart, with all of our mind and with all of our soul so that our lives are a testimony of God's love and goodness to men. Remember the words of John 3:16 for God so loved the world. We were in the world and He loved us so much that He made provisions for us not to have to stay in the world. We were in bondage and like Israel, He delivered us, set us free. Now, all that He ask is found in John 8:31 **Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ³³They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? ³⁴Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ³⁵And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. ³⁶If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. It is all about choices. Adam made the wrong choice in the garden; now God is giving us a second chance to make the right choice and live with Him forever. I want to reveal myself as a child of God and I can, and you can also. Here is what God has already said on the subject as found in Deuteronomy 30:19 **I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:** Case closed and that is my final answer and I am agreeing with God.**

Single's Christmas Banquet

The year 2015 has come and gone for the singles of Freedom Ministries. We ended the year with a banquet and had a blast. We ate, sang Karaoke and played games. Many of the singles have made a declaration for 2016/2017 to be engaged, married or continuously working on pleasing God as we prepare for our spouse. Our prayer as we prepare for another year is that we always put God first and that he gives us a Godly spouse.



Our theme for 2016 is **“Our Journey to I do”**

We will have our next Q & A on **January 23, 2016 at Freedom Ministries at 6 p.m.** Refreshments will be served. Please see Sister Tonja or Sister Brooke for the questions.

The Final 'F' Words

Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown

Follow - Allowing God to have the lead while you follow is some of the best advice I can think of for any Believer in Christ. Why? We cannot trust our own hearts even when the path seems obvious. Don't trust your heart. Ask God and wait for His answer. Then and only then will it be a good time to move forward. Follow His lead no matter what outside pressures are present. Follow hard after Him. Jeremiah 17:9-10; Psalm 139:23; Hebrews 4:12-13

Full - You gave away something valuable when you were generous to that ungrateful child, thoughtless co-worker, insensitive church member, rude motorist, selfish sibling, or uncaring boss. You purposely engaged your heart in understanding and partnered with Jesus to be selfless. You gave away some of what Christ has given to you – graciousness. What was given away needs replenishing and renewing for continued access and availability when needed again. For this to happen, we have to have regular and consistent connection with the Source of our strength – Jesus Christ Our Lord. Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:14-15; Genesis 50:11

Forgive and Forget - Real or imagined, an offense is an offense and it will need to be dealt with to keep our hearts out of bitterness and hardness. After learning that forgiveness is first a decision and an act of the will, then comes putting it into practice on a regular basis. I can think of nothing more frustrating, more draining and futile than carrying the weight of unforgiven offenses on one's back. Unresolved anger and bitterness pile up and become heart heavy to the soul.

Some things may seem unforgivable and certainly unforgettable. The stinging, recurring, and unbearable pain of wounds received from a friend or trusted family member. A betrayal. A broken trust. Repeated abuse. The atrocities of human on human crime. All indications of the human condition—fallen.

This forgiveness isn't necessarily for the offender but for you. The weight comes off of you, the offended one. The decision to forgive is required regardless to what your emotions may be screaming. First comes the **fact** that forgiveness is needed. **Faith** is needed to know that God will give the strength and courage to do it. Usually, given enough time, the **feelings** will follow.

After forgiveness is enacted, that doesn't always mean that trust has been restored or even earned. In fact, the offender may never admit guilt or ask for forgiveness. Even so, wise people don't run into a hornet's nest just because the hornet indicates he isn't a hornet anymore. Nor would one run into a snake's home because we got invited. So how does one 'forget'? I don't believe this is the 'delete' key of our minds. Offenses aren't guaranteed to disappear or never be thought of again once we decide to forgive. I believe this 'forgetting' is what begins when I choose to drop the chains off of my ankles and the boulder from my back and get on with my life. I'm not carrying it around with me 24/7 like a neon sign with laser lights out in front of me because it no longer controls or negatively impacts my life. I'm free from the prison of grudges and the desire to get them back and make them pay for hurting me. I'm done with the judge and jury posturing. I choose to. Matthew 18:21-22; Phil 3:12-14.

Funny - Recognize and work the stuff that cracks you up. If I've learned anything at all it is that I cannot get away from myself. So I've come to terms with that and I refuse to make me miserable just because I do weird and out of the ordinary things. I've had more fun with my

The Final 'F' Words (Continued)

Minister Olivian Peterson-Brown

individuality since I made that decision and life is a lot more enjoyable. Those quirky, unique things that make me who I am don't necessarily mean I need to change them. I'm learning how to accept them, use and rope them in so that I don't stress as much as I once did and that brings about a freedom to operate effectively. The other way is exhausting. Choosing to accept and not fight against being the person that God designed me to be is a new level of strength, power, and confidence.

My strange differences have allowed me to survive more than I ever thought possible. I call some of those things my God given built in defense system. The mechanisms that help me to see life from a unique vantage point filled with thankful hope and gratitude. My experiences that were/are painful, I'm still giving them to God. He turns them into opportunities for ministry. You would be amazed at what God can do with the insurmountable baggage we bring to the table when we give it to Him. He can turn your mourning into dancing, your mistakes into miracles, and your mess into ministry if you'll give it to him.

The fashion and makeup industries make all kinds of money every day because so many people are obsessed with having the right look, wearing the right clothes, looking younger, being accepted by others, looking like someone else, etc., etc. But, at the end of the day, who are they for real? The make-up, the clothes, the color, the additional hair, and whatever else we use to cover it all up, underneath it all we are still the person we woke up to that morning. Without an inside job, taking in the proper food and nutrition and getting some much needed exercise, nothing really changes at least not lasting change.

Don't get me wrong, if the barn door needs painting, go to your version of Sherwin Williams and load up but don't forget to make sure the inside of that barn can stand up to inclement weather because it will come. Spend time getting to know that person on the inside and you'll know the appropriate times to laugh, cry, run for cover, or hide in the Word. Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 11:28

Nevertheless, get some laugh time in. As you learn to laugh at yourself you'll be headed in the direction of 'getting over yourself' and getting on with Kingdom work. Proverbs 27:22; Psalm 126:2; Proverbs 15:13

THANK YOU FAMILY

I would like to thank you for the love gift you all gave to me. Your gifts was a surprise and greatly appreciated. You all have been such a blessing and encouragement in my life. Thank you Pastor and Minister Filmore and Freedom Ministries Church Family.

With all my love. God bless you.

Sister Darwood

What *Message* are you sending to God?

by Tonja Filmore

As I look over the years of the progression in technology, I often wonder if people realize the subliminal messages they send when using their gadgets. Cell phones, Facebook, and iPads are all common items people engage themselves in that tell the other person they are not important. It's not okay but accepted when dealing with friends and family but what about God. Church is where most people go to hear the word of God, get a message from the Lord, get encouragement from the Lord, seek God's word, get healed by God, get direction from God or some for all the wrong reasons (another topic) but ultimately to hear from God. We all want something from God but don't want to give him the time.



If you go to your job and aren't allowed to use your cell phone, you put it away and work. You want that paycheck so you do what you have to do to earn it. Why is it that we come to church knowing full well we are in need of God's word but make our cell phones more important than God? Yes He knows your heart but your actions say, "Lord, you are not that important." Some of you will only give him that small time in between text messages and Facebook anyway so make sure He gets your undivided attention. What if He listened to you in between text messages and Facebook? (I know but what if?) Thank God He is omnipresent.

I use to use my bible app on my phone for the reading but realized that messages still popped up and posts from Facebook as well so I made a conscience decision to use my personal bible or the one in the pew in front of me. My phone is on silent and tucked away in my purse. I need God like never before and never have to doubt if He knows how important He is to me.

PUT THOSE CELL PHONES AWAY. NOBODY'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD ESPECIALLY WHILE IN CHURCH.

ps. There are some exceptions but use time wisely with God.

THESE ARE THE LAST DAYS

by Pastor Freddie Filmore

Second Peter 3:3 **Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,** ⁴**And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.** ⁵**For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:** ⁶**Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:** ⁷**But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of **ungodly men.**** God's word is true; men are willingly ignorant of the word of God and they will reap the harvest for their choices. As believers, we are required to preach the word so that they that hear might believe and be changed by the word. So that you and I remain free, it is not our job to change men; leave that to the Holy Spirit. Don't let our lives be a stumbling block to the person that is trying to get to know Christ, the Risen Saviour. Look at what the scripture says in 2 Timothy 3:1 **This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.** ²**For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,** ³**Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,** ⁴**Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;** ⁵**Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** ⁶**For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,** ⁷**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** ⁸**Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.** ⁹**But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.** Do you see this taking place right now? We know that Jesus is soon to come. A day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. No one knows the day or the hour when the Son of Man is coming. **God is saying for us to be ready.** Being ready is not just about church attendance, but about life as a whole. How you treat your fellow man, how you speak to them, what you do for them, etc. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, make a difference to every sinner that you meet, present to him the chance to be saved. Spread the table; invite him to come and dine just as Jesus gave the invitation for folks to come to the wedding. Many to whom the invitation was given did not come; but they were told to go to the hedges and highways to compel them to come so that God's house would be filled. You can't make people get saved, but can love them even when you find them not living according to the scripture. That is where you and I were, that is where God found us, and loved us, and offered us a new life with Jesus Christ. Now let us do the same thing for them that we meet on a daily basis. God may send you into some dark places but don't begrudge where He send you. Walk in absolute obedience to the call of God and let Him do the work. Guess what, He is more than capable to get the job done. In the meantime, give God praise and thank Him for using you to help build His kingdom. Someone yet needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; will you go or are you too busy doing your own thing. Let God use you for today's harvest.

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Dec 2015</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Feb 2016</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29						1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																				
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																				
28	29																																																																																									
3 12 Pastor Filmore 7pm NES	4	5 2pm APD Chaplain Mtg. 7pm Shavah Prayer	6	7 7pm 2015 Annual Business Meeting	8	9																																																																																				
10 12 Pastor Filmore 7pm NES	11	12 7pm Shavah Prayer	13 7pm Youth Ministry	14 7pm Bible Study	15 6pm Decorate for baby shower	16 1pm Baby Shower for Jennell Dennis																																																																																				
17 12 Minister P. Brown 7pm NES	18 ML King Day	19 7pm Shavah Prayer	20	21 7pm Bible Study	22	23 6pm Singles																																																																																				
24 12 Pastor Filmore 7pm NES	25	26 7pm Shavah Prayer	27 7pm Youth Ministry	28 7pm Bible Study	29	30																																																																																				
31 12 Pastor Girley 7pm NES																																																																																										