

Set Me Free

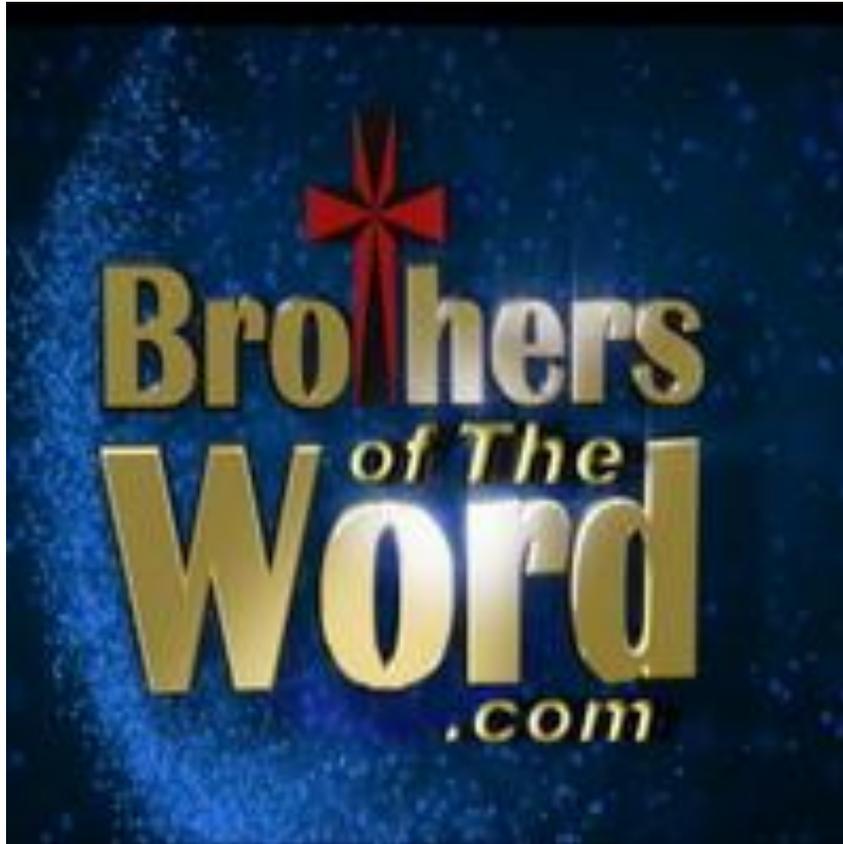
Sermon Title: **Set Me Free**

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Speaker: **Christina Bronner**

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Christina Bronner: Every new level requires a different version of you.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:13 - 00:00:25)

And now for Set Me Free.

Christina Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of The Word because brother and sister you need the word.

So, when pastor asked me to do this message, I started a program that he established a couple of years ago called Do42. You can find the details on do42.com but it's a very, very intense miracle program where you only eat raw and steam fruits and vegetables for 42. No seasoning, no salt, no pepper, nothing processed, nothing other than everything that comes out of the Garden of Eden. So, here I am for 42 days eat and drinking nothing but water, eating fruits and vegetables and then you also have a workout component to it and then you have a spiritual aspect of it to help you rid yourself of the seven deadly sins. So, you're praying and you're reading scripture and you're giving things away every single day. You can't complain and get angry although the devil tried me sometimes.

I worked it out and I didn't get angry. But you have to refrain from these lustful behaviors and you control your eating and so, I went through this program so that I can get my spirit right and get closer to him, to be here with you guys today and here I am successfully have completed it and I am 28 pounds lighter. This is what it looks like. Thank you, thank you, thank you. So, it is absolutely a blessing. I am so excited but while I was on this program, I was about 3 days in and I decided to have me a praise and worship service. You all know how you all do when we in the room by ourselves, I was going at it for a second. I thought that I was BB and CC then I turn into Tasha Cobbs, then I became Yolanda Adams, then I forgot some of the words. So, I became Kirk Franklin and I just start talking.

And then, I took the roof off and I became Tamela Mann. I promise you the people down the street probably thought I was crazy but it didn't matter at that moment because I was having a

very, very intimate moment with God. A moment that not had in a very, very long time. But I got real naked, one of those intimate moments where you become naked with them and you become vulnerable and very transparent with him and I began to invite him in and I said God come on in, I invite you. I opened up my heart for you right now. And guess what? He showed up you all. He showed up and the tears began to fall. Tears began to fall because it had been so long since we had had an intimate situation like this that I had begun to think that he had forgotten about me.

I had begun to think that he wasn't hearing my prayers any longer and he couldn't see my tears and he couldn't no longer feel my pain and so I'll started questioning God and I asked him, "God, where have you been?" I said, "Why haven't I been able to hear you? Why haven't I been able to feel you? Why haven't I been able to talk to you like this?" And you all know when you all question God. He answers you and he gives you an answer that you're not ready for. And so here I am and he goes "my child, I have heard every last one of your prayers. I have seen and captured every last one of your tears and I have felt every last hurt and pain but," and it made me a little nervous because I know when we get a "but" it makes us a little nervous but God said, "But you have been sitting in prison."

Now, this is a conversation between me and my father. So, you know, I politely say, "Excuse me" and God says, "Baby, you've been sitting in prison, you're robbing yourself of your full potential, you are a thief to your own dreams." He says, "You murdered your vision, you abandon your gifts and you neglected your talents." He says, "And then, you've been breaking and entering into your past and you've been trespassing into worried, doubt and depression. My child, you are a criminal" and at this moment you all know the tears are flowing like rivers because the truth hurts but God came and he spoke some truth to me and at this time I was like one of the little kids, you just ready to walk away. And God said, "No, no, no, I'm not done" and I said, "God, I can't take anymore, can't take anymore truth" and he says, "Because of your past hurts and your past pains and your past heart breaks and your past failures and your past lost loved ones."

He says, “Not only have you put yourself in prison, but you have put yourself in solitary confinement” and I began to plead with him and I began to try to explain myself and say, “What? In solitary confinement. I don’t experience any hurt. I can’t feel any pain. No one could break my heart there. I would never feel it anything because there was nothing to do with merely survive.” And I said, “It was perfect” and then God said to me “but in solitary confinement, you can’t feel love.” He said, “You can’t spread your wings and fly to your full potential. You can’t share your gifts. You can’t live in your purpose.” He says, “You can’t do the things that I have called you to do. You are only surviving but you are not living” and so, there were tears. The boo-boo face on and everything and I’m just like “wow, I have to share this with somebody.”

So, today the title of my message is “Set Me Free” because I know that there’s somebody out there that’s in that same position that I’m in. That’s in that same prison that I’m sitting in. That’s in that same solitary confinement that I have put myself in. So, I know that there is somebody out there in the same situation that I’m in.

So, Revelation 2:10 says, “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison that you may be tested and for 10 days you will have tribulations.” So, the Bible already tells us that we’re getting ready to be thrown in prison. So, it’s either you just got out of prison, you’re in prison or guess what? You own your way to prison. And the thing is that at some point we will all be in some aspect of a prison in our lives. The issue comes when we decide to get stuck there and so, there’s somebody here today and don’t raise your hand because you don’t want to you know, put that out there but I know that there is somebody here today that is stuck in a prison and guess what? Prison doesn’t mean four walls and bars. We have locked ourselves in our minds in prison and we are stuck and some of us are looking, we are begging, we are crying for a way out and some of us are stuck in the prison of our past, in the prison of our old ways, the prison of our bad habits, the prison of lost loved ones, the prison of mental unhealthiness, the prison of disease and sickness, the prison of failure, the prison of heartbreak, the prison of broken relationships, the prison of divorce, the prison of toxic partnerships, the prison of financial hardships. The prison of fear, worry, doubt, pain, the prison of love, self-esteem and lack of confidence, the prison of sloth and greed and envy but the most

and the worst one of them all is the prison of what others think of you.

But some of you all are in one of those prisons and the thing about it is that when you are in prison, you can't live you merely survive and you follow this daily routine over and over and over and you're doing the same thing over and over just to make it to the next day to start over and do the same thing again. And I think about it is it's not just the sad people that we see that are suffering, it's some of the people that we can't even tell that are suffering because they've learned to master survival and let me let you in on a little secret.

We've been wearing masks long before the pandemic and the thing about it is that it's now time for us to take off that mask, we've been walking around in the mask to hide the fact that we're on survival mode, to have the fact that we're still in a prison within our own minds. And so, it's now time for us to take that mask off so that we can begin living and not just merely surviving.

So, today I created six steps to help set you free. So, I have this chart because I'm a teacher. So, the teacher in me for those people who are visual, for those people who are here and visual, here is a visual of what we are learning today of are six steps because I'm a visual learner. So, I have to see things, I have to see it out, I have to draw it out, I have to write it out even if it's words I have to write it down so that I can see and so that I can understand. And so, there are six steps to help us to set ourselves free. The first step is we must start praying. Acts 12-5 says, "So, Peter was kept in prison but the church was earnestly praying to God for him" and later on in that scripture it talks about an angel came and escorted Peter right out the front door pass all of the guards.

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And so, the thing is that God will send angels to come and rescue you from whatever prison that you're in but you simply have to pray and ask him. He's not coming if you don't ask. Ask and you shall receive. So, you have to start praying and asking God to send his angels to come rescue out of the prison that you've been sitting in.

James 5:13 says, "Is anyone in among you in trouble? Let them pray." So, the first thing that we must do is start praying. The second thing is we have to re-evaluate our lives. Lamentations

3:40 says, "Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord." And second, Corinthians 13:5 says, "Examine yourself to see whether you are in faith." And so, we have to start re-examining our lives. We have to ask ourselves those, who, what, when, where, why, questions that we used to get in school. We have to ask ourselves who do you have in your life. Is it all criminals because guess what? Birds of a feather flock together, and the thing is that if you're hanging with criminals that either makes you a criminal or you're on your way to become a criminal.

And misery loves company. So, if you hang out with criminals all they want is for you to become a criminal with them and steal your dreams, steal your joy, steal your peace and so you have to re-examine who is in your company. Then you have to ask yourself what are you watching. What are you allowing to get through the gates of your eyes?

I used to watch the lifetime channel, I used to love it. I mean their stories were deep but every time you watch the show you became a part of that show and it was always about a victim. You always became a victim when you watch lifetime and the thing about it is that you begin to internalize that and take that in as you watch it and then you start turning everything you deal with in life and you become the victim. And so, you have to be careful with what you allowed to go through your gates of your eyes because you become that, it begins to shape your character. And then you have to ask yourself what am I listening to.

So, at one point in time in my life I was at a place, you all don't judge me, but I was at a place and I used to love this song. I hate you so much right now and I began to play it over and over and as that song started to become a part of me and I just began hating just because, but it's because when you play something over and over and over it sets in and becomes set in your heart. I also used to listen to this Beyoncé song and it was saying, "Put your middle finger up, I ain't sorry" and I found myself listening to this and I found myself dancing and I almost did what the song said and I had to stop myself and realize this is not of you. So, the things that we listen to will begin to reshape our character, and if you don't want your character to reshape in that negative aspect you are going to have to pay attention to what you are listening to.

And next, you have to ask yourself when do you spend time with God. Is it only when things are going bad, is it only when something has happened, when you need him, or are you giving him praise and honor every time you read a benefit of what he has given you when he has blessed you with something and then the last where, you need to ask yourself exactly where am I in life. Because some of us are so much better than what we thin. We think that we are worse, but there's always somebody that's worse often us. So, we need to start re-evaluating ourselves and stop thinking about everything that we don't have and start being grateful and give thanks for what we do have because every last one of us walked in here this morning that means that we have been given the gift of life, the breath of life so that means that we have a gift that somebody else didn't get this morning.

And so, we have to start asking ourselves, where am I really in life. And once you re-evaluate yourself you then need to promote, demote and terminate. You need to promote, demote and terminate. There's some things in your life that's way down on your priority list that you need to promote to number one. See, some of us leave God just whenever I can get them in but you need to promote him to that number one CEO spot of your life so that he can be the head and the leader because everything else that falls into place follows the leader. It follows the head. And so, you need to promote him to that number one spot. And then there's some things that are up there that have your attention, some things that take your time that you need demote and move down on your priority list.

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And then there's some things that God has said, "You need to let go of that, you need to terminate those things" because they're holding on to you and they're keeping you hostage in this prison to where you can't let go and you can't even open your hands to reach the blessings that God is ready to pour down on you because you're still holding on to some things that God has said terminate. There's some relationships that you need to terminate, their some businesses that your still pouring into that God says terminate, there's some people that are in your circle that away in your circle down and God says terminate them and you're still holding on some bad habits that we have, that we're still holding onto God is saying, "You are going to have to terminate so that I can replace it with something greater."

So, the next thing number three is you have to invent and invest in an escape plan. Proverbs 16:9 says, “The heart of a man plans his way but the Lord orders his steps.” God will order your steps, but you first got to have a plan. He can’t order anything that you haven’t planned. And so, first we have to create a plan. Second, Timothy 2:26 says, “And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil.” So, it already tells us that we’re in prison and we must escape, we must come to our senses and understand that it is time for us to escape the prison that holds us captive. We have to release; we have to get out. So, many things that God wants us to do what we have to figure out how we can plan our escape.

And once we plan and invest some time and energy making sure that everything is going to go right, God will order our steps. So, we have to create this plan so that God can order our steps, but guess what? God is going to sit there and he’s going to wait for you to create that plan. So, if you sit and just sit dormant guess what? He’s sitting and waiting on you. So, all he wants you to do is create the plan and he’ll make it happen. The fourth thing is read your scripture. Psalms 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” And so, it is in his word that we will find the lamp that will order our steps and the light that will guide us. So, we must fill up on his word. We need to find time to make sure that we fill up on his word. We have the time to fill up on so much other stuff, all of this drama that’s going on in the world. I bet everybody know what’s going on with Trump and the presidential debate, but we need to know what is in his word.

So, we have to make time to study and get our food and fill up on his word. Number five, we have to open our eyes and our heart. Psalms 119:18 says, “Open my eyes that I may see the wonderful things in your law.” So, you must open your eyes in order to have vision. You can’t see anything with closed eyes. And so, if you’re walking out of your prison cell and your eyes are closed, you won’t be able to see which way to go and there’s so many of us that’s trying to get out of our prison, but we’re walking out of it with our eyes closed and all we doing is running into a wall every time we get up and we run into the same wall over and over and over again and God says, “You got to open your eyes baby.” I will give you the vision but with closed eyes you will not be able to see it. You also must open up your heart because everything that you can’t

see with your eyes, you can feel with your heart. And so, we have to open our eyes and our heart.

And number six, the most important one. Never ever give up. Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." And so, it's always the moment that you are ready to quit. That's usually the moment right before the miracle happens. And so, if you fall down seven, you all know just get up and stand up ain't because you have to remember that great things take time. We are diamonds in the making and it's going to take time heat and pressure. So, just because you feel that heat and just because you feel that pressure doesn't mean that God has given up on you, it doesn't mean that you are at your end, it means that God is creating a diamond out of you.

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So, let's recap before we go for those of you that are stuck in any prison. The first thing that you have to do is pray, then you have to re-evaluate your life. You have to promote some things, you have to demote some things and you have to terminate some things. Then you have to invent and invest in your escape plan. If you create a plan, God will order your steps. Then you have to begin to read your scripture. Get into his word, know his word, understand his word, read it so much that it becomes part of your character, it becomes embedded in your heart and you know it just like you know the songs that come on the radio. And then, in order to get up and put your plan in action, you have to open your eyes and open your heart so that you can escape. And the last but not least the most important thing is to never ever give up. Just when you feel like you ready to give up. God will give you strength like no other and he will calls you to keep pressing on and keep going and keep moving and he will come and he will be your backbone and you will not even realize where their strength came from. So never ever, ever give up. Amen. I thank you for having me this morning, I hope that you got something out of this word, I thank you for watching, thank you for tuning in to Brothers of the Word because brother and sister you need the word.

Female:

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