

# A Slave, Servant, Or Prisoner Mentality For A Son/Daughter?

## What Is Boldness For?

By B. D. Tate

When a slave or a servant speaks it is with meekness and weakness. They are trained to beg, plead, and submit to their masters. A prisoner who has lived most of his life behind prison bars develops a prison mentality. They might call it “institutionalized.” Once someone like this has been released into the free world he struggles with the *authority of freedom*. Many in this situation are just overwhelmed by it and manage somehow to get put back into prison.

A slave set free after decades of conditioning finds it hard to act free. It doesn't take much to intimidate a servant or slave to back down and to take a lower place. *Slave consciousness* causes many to remain in bondage and domination by others when they are free men and women. The situation for the slaves after the civil war was much like this. They were legally free but they didn't know how to live free. Many of the population in the south did not respect their freedom and took advantage of their weaknesses.

I remember seeing a man who'd lived most of his life behind bars finally set free. He was cautious, unsure, unprepared, and uncomfortable with his freedom. He worked as a bag man in a food store. Whenever he needed to go to the bathroom he would ask the manager like he had to ask the prison guards, “Bathroom break, Mister?” He had a hard time accepting that his freedom meant he could go the bathroom whenever he needed without asking.

Many of us do not have a slave mentality or servant's demeanor. We've lived free and we are Americans. We have had privileges, rights, and opportunities. We know we can get a job, buy a house, purchase whatever we need, take vacations, and do whatever we'd like to on our time off. We aren't asking permission to go to the store, to the movies,

to the city, or enjoy our parks and recreations. We are full citizens of the United States. We may not be rich and powerful like some but we do enjoy our freedom. Many of us would say that we are not slaves but free men and women.

Jesus told the Pharisees, Sadducees, and religious rulers something that offended them. He told them they were slaves.

John 8: 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

33 They answered Him, "**We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?**"

34 Jesus answered them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**

It is a curious thing that these religious leaders make such a claim that they have "never been in bondage to anyone." They were in current bondage to Roman rule and subject to Roman law; yet, they declared themselves to be under no bondage. They saw the Roman rule as oppression and suffering but temporary. As the chosen people of God their Roman occupation was seen as persecution. They might be sitting outwardly but in their hearts they were standing in opposition to this gentile defiled governing. In their hearts they no more accepted Roman rule than they accept Jesus as their Messiah.

When Jesus suggested that they could be made free they were offended. They already saw themselves as free. They saw themselves as God's chosen people and descendants of Abraham and therefore heirs of the world. They saw themselves are the eventual winners in life's struggle to rule and reign. They believed the Messiah would come and restore their former and rightful place and return them to the glory of King David and Solomon.

Then Jesus explained, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**"

Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. Well, that would include every human being that has ever been born. Everyone born into sin is a slave. A slave to sin nature means one is bound to self centeredness. A slave to sin nature is one who is bound to being one's own god. Self rule as opposed to God ruled. The lusts of the flesh, the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches plague the sinner.

The Jewish leaders did not consider themselves as sinners like the gentiles; they were righteous by keeping the Law of Moses and by being the curators of the scriptures. They were descendants of Abraham and therefore stood in a special position before Almighty God. The Law was their way of remaining above the fray of sin. The Law of Moses was their pathway to right standing with God. The sacrifices for sin offerings and the atonement once a year practiced by the High Priest insured they were not sinners or slaves to sin in their own minds. They were the chosen people and holy unlike the ungodly peoples of the earth.

## **Jesus Offended Them By Telling They Could Be Set Free From Their Slavery To Sin.**

What does a slave to sin look like? What mentality does a slave of sin manifest? How does that differ from being set free by the Son of God?

A slave of sin is someone who is naturally bound. It is someone who is sense knowledge driven and dependent. A slave of sin is someone who is *easily intimidated* by physical facts. A servant of sin is someone who can be backed down to take the lower place. It is someone who doesn't know what true freedom is or how to live in it. They are unsure, uncertain, cautious and uncomfortable with any other kind of life. Someone who is imprisoned in the old ways finds it hard or difficult to venture into the new life.

The Pharisees and religious rulers had no idea that Jesus was speaking about spiritual life and truth. Their religious teachings and understanding of the Law of Moses kept them bound in naturalism. They were not able to comprehend or discern the supernatural life of the Spirit.

I Cor. 2: 14 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Carnal Christianity is also a slave, servant, and prisoner based mentality. Carnal or baby Christianity never rises above the physical. They are still basing what they believe on what they can see, touch, hear, or feel. The Word of God doesn't penetrate beyond what they can experience in life.

Ro 8:7 **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.**

The enemy, like the southerners after the civil war, takes advantage of the weakness and lack of confidence of carnal Christians to keep them in their slave mentality. In fact, the enemy wants to keep born again believers under the *old system of the law* in order to prevent them from standing in their liberty.

As long as a son acts like a slave, he is no different than one.

Gal. 4: 1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, **does not differ at all from a slave,** though he is master of all,

2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

3 **Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.**

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5 **to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

What does the slave, servant, or prisoner mentality look like among believers? We are fearful, anxious, and constantly worrying about the cares of life. It is when we are unwilling to step into and stand upon who we are in Christ. We are easily intimidated into returning to the old way of operating. We are hesitant, cautious, and shaky in regards to the power of God in us. We still fear sickness and communicable diseases.

We are very much under the ways and influences of this world. We continue to feed upon the world's food and drink.

**When a Christian looks no different than a non believer we are still acting like slaves.** We've been made righteous and given son ship in Christ. We are no longer without Jesus and have become spiritually alive.

Jesus said when the Holy Spirit shall come upon you that we would be endowed with power from on high. What characterized the early believers after receiving the Holy Spirit **was boldness**. They were emboldened to act upon the word of God.

What is boldness for? Is it to act naturally, reasonably, and respectably according to the world's standards?

## **What Is Boldness For?**

Boldness is to act according to the Spirit in the midst of this fallen world. The world speaks about what they have and what is happening; the Spirit speaks about what we want to have bringing into being the things that are not. Faith requires that we speak what we believe. We believe the truth found in God's word although to the natural man these things seem unknown and indiscernible.

**Ro 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

When Jesus taught us to speak to the mountain He was teaching us to speak what we want instead of saying what we have (Mark 11:23, 24). It takes boldness to act according to the Spirit instead of the flesh. It takes boldness to call those things that be not as though they are!

**Boldness Is For Us To See, Stand, And Assert The Spiritual Truths That May Be Unseen At Present Over And Against The Things That Are Seen.**

2Co 4:18 **“while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”**

A slave, servant, and prisoner will not act boldly. A son or daughter of God does. A slave, servant, or prisoner will speak only of the things that are seen and present; a son or daughter speaks about the truth of God’s spiritual power coming to pass.

**Where does boldness come from?** It comes from the witness and presence of the Spirit when we are convinced and certain of the things of God (Col. 2:7). When we have eliminated doubt and confusion and understand how faith works in God’s grace, then we’ll act boldly. We’ll speak what we believe because in our spirit we see what God sees.

2Co 4:13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, **“I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,**

The slave, servant or prisoner will not act because they fear retribution, condemnation, rejection, and reproach. They fear that they have no rights, no privileges, and no position to speak. They have a slave consciousness. **A son or daughter stands in Christ, stands in the position of righteousness, and has confidence in what Jesus has done.** Their relationship of a son and daughter gives them a liberty in *Christ consciousness*.

Ac 4:29 **“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,**

2Co 3:12 Therefore, since we have such hope, **we use great boldness of speech--**

Boldness is for us to believe, trust, act, and assert the truth of the Word of God into our lives over against the fallen facts we are now involved with.

## **The Natural Mind Considers This Lying**

To the natural mind to speak boldly about the grace of God and His accomplished will in our life seems like lying. The natural mind only perceives the facts of this realm and acknowledges what is heard, touched, felt, or seen. The spiritual truths of the new creation are indiscernible and seem fantasy if not untrue. When a believer declares His standing in God through Christ he or she is speaking of things the natural mind cannot relate to.

Philemon 1:6 **"that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

The slave, servant, or prisoner of this world of sin nature, of the flesh, and carnal thinking, will not speak of such things. The slave will remain silent. The servant will consider it arrogance. The prisoner will see it as foolishness and hopeless. The son or daughter of God however, understands the command, the authority, and the gift of faith given. We believe therefore we speak and declare the spiritual life and truth of God's grace into our lives.

**When we became born again how did this happen?** Did we become born again before we confessed Jesus is Lord or after? Did we become born again and then declare we were saved? The answer is that we believed in our heart *but then confessed* with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and then we became born again. We first spoke and agreed with the Word of God before our salvation became real to us.

If we wait until we are born again to speak of such things we'd be still waiting. In fact, I have counseled with many Christians who have struggled with their personal salvation. They hoped they were saved but did not know if they were saved. It wasn't until I could get them to confess they were saved that the assurance and witness of the Holy Spirit happened in their heart. Many have had the light turned on only after they spoke the truth.

Col 2:6 **As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,**

A slave will not change the conditioning of life to take on his or her new life (II Cor. 5:17). A servant will not act boldly to declare and stand in his or her righteousness provided in Christ. A prisoner remains carnally minded and bound by naturalism's rules that say, "Unless I see it I will not believe."

Furthermore, a slave when set free will still act as if he or she is not free (Making Christ of no affect Gal. 5:4). A servant that has become a son or daughter *will still be intimidated and back down*. A prisoner who is set free will still be afraid of his or her freedom. The boldness to stand and assert will falter, give in, and give up. The natural man has no resource to act in faith in God's grace.

## **Conclusion:**

God has called us sons and daughters we are no longer slaves, servants, and prisoners of sin (Rom. 6:4). We've been given the gift of righteousness therefore believing God we take our position in Him (Rom. 5:17). We please the Lord, rise up, speak the truth of God's word and declare His will done. Stand in the liberty of Christ and be spiritually minded using the power and gifts of the Spirit to bring about salvation in all its forms.

God is waiting on us to believe Him, stand in His word, and declare His glory manifest in our lives, in our bodies, and in our loved ones lives around us. God is waiting on us to speak, command, and use the authority of Jesus' name to reverse the curse that is in the earth. Sons and daughters of God will hear, respond, and live to the obedience of faith! Put away the slave, servant, and prisoner mentality and put on Christ. Amen.