



# FREEDOM CHURCH

**"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom."**

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

**Service Time: Sundays at 10 am**

## **Pastor Mark's Remarks**

Hi Friends,

Recently a good friend of mine from another state visited a worship service at Freedom for the very first time. Because my friend is a man of strong faith and spiritual maturity, I was intrigued to hear what his initial impression was of Freedom Church. As he described what he saw and felt at Freedom, one word kept coming up again and again. And that word was HUNGER.

The thing that he noticed more than anything among the people of Freedom Church was a deep hunger for more. He sensed a hunger for more than just ritual or religion, more than a Sunday morning spiritual fix, more than good music and thought-provoking preaching, more than smooth productions that make us laugh and cry, and more than what most of us grew up calling "church."

I can't think of many words that I find more encouraging or accurate to describe the people of Freedom Church than *hungry*. Why do I say that? I say that because there is little of value that you can do with people who are not hungry. They are already satisfied, and satisfied people aren't willing to stretch, sacrifice, change or take risks. But hungry people will go to great lengths to see their hunger satisfied.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God's approval. They will be satisfied."* What a great promise! Jesus blesses the hungry with exactly what they need. I am so encouraged by what I see happening at Freedom Church. Spiritual hunger is something that cannot be manufactured. It can only be created by the Holy Spirit. And rest assured that when the Holy Spirit creates a hunger, He fully intends to supply what we hunger for.

So I want to ask you: What are you hungry for? What do you yearn to see God do in your life, in your family, and in Freedom Church? And are you asking God to move powerfully and accomplish these things? Are you coming to worship hungry, prayed-up, and expectant that God will pour out fresh manna from heaven to fill our hungry souls?

God has huge dreams and plans for Freedom Church. And a vital step in seeing these things become a reality is for His people to be filled with a deep hunger for more. Do you feel that rumbling from the deepest part of your being, calling you to something more? It's the stirring of God's Spirit, preparing us for what He has planned. May that holy hunger continue to grow and be completely satisfied by Him in the months and years to come.

Thank you for being a people who are not content with the past or with less than what God wants to do!

You Are Loved!  
Mark

## **February 2019 Special Dates**

- Jan. 31: Celebrate Recovery Open House (7:00)
- Feb. 10: Mexico Mission Trip Sign-up Deadline
- Feb. 17: Core Team Mtg (2:30)
- Feb. 17: Small Group Leaders Mtg (3:30)
- Celebrate Recovery every Thursday at 6:15 pm
- Freedom's youth meet on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm



**Check us out on the web! [www.myfreedomchurch.net](http://www.myfreedomchurch.net)**

## Celebrate Recovery Ministry

One of the greatest gifts we can offer ourselves . . .

This gift will not come in a box or wrapped with a ribbon. This gift will be more in the form of a decision. It comes in the power provided through an act of forgiveness. In our Recovery Ministry, we frequently witness the freedom experienced when we decide to let go of bitterness and resentment; when we come to grips with the idea that holding on to anger and grudges is at the center of our struggle for peace and happiness. We find that our struggle to demand justice and accountability for the perceived wrongdoing of others frequently causes us more harm than the initial act. Time and time again we find that at the root of compulsive behaviors is a buried pain. It is not easy and harder still when these circumstances seem to demonstrate that we have every right to be upset. It is the hanging on that gets us, the refusal to let go. In this idea, we are not attempting to settle the questions of blame, justice and fairness, but are working for healing and to open the door to allowing some relationships a chance at starting over.

One of the most liberating points in practicing the Celebrate Recovery principles comes in principle six: Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others.

This same principle is found in Matthew 5:7 and 5:9, "Happy are the merciful; Happy are the peacemakers."

Where do we start this process? We have seen it begin with a response-time prayer on Sunday mornings, within small groups, and most frequently on Thursday nights in Celebrate Recovery. But most certainly, it will begin with a conversation with a ministry leader or accountability partner. As a church, our desire is that we begin to see the fruits of these discussions and decisions. Are you holding on to an opportunity for a new-found Freedom?

God Bless,  
John & Salley Beck, Recovery Pastors

## Celebrate Recovery Open House Thursday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:15 pm

Please join us Thursday night, January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 6:15 in the Grace Room for our Celebrate Recovery Open House!

Freedom CR has chosen this night to celebrate the recovery and healing that we see Christ demonstrating in our church and in this core Freedom ministry. Following is our schedule for the evening:

- 6:15 Fellowship time and meal
- 7:00 Worship
- 7:20 Outside speaker /CR testimony
- 8:10 Small groups

Small groups will be followed with a time of fellowship and dessert. Please mark this date and join us for worship, a look at the CR recovery process and prayer!



Freedom Church • 101 Ecor Rouge Place • Fairhope, AL 36532

## Preschool Ministry

***Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6***

We are kicking off the new year by adding a music class for our preschoolers! Caroline Keener will lead the children in a fun time of praise and worship. Be sure to ask the children about the songs they are learning. We only have 15 minutes of music each Sunday, so we encourage you to practice with them each week. We hope to prepare them to sing in front of the church this spring.

Ms. Brenda will be teaching on the fruits of the spirit. A special puppet friend will be visiting the class each week to help Ms. Brenda with her lesson! The children are very excited about our new friend!

Many blessings,  
Sabrina

## Student Ministry

We are enjoying our youth fun nights at the end of each month! In our teachings, we have been getting closer to God, and we are seeing fruit during our worship time. Our hope is that our youth will get on fire for Jesus in such a way that everyone around them will hear the gospel and believe! Nothing is going to change the world like a generation on fire for Jesus.

That doesn't stop or have to start at the youth. That can start in your heart. The Bible tells us that we will find if we seek and receive if we ask. Let's ask God to give us a personal revival - the kind of personal fire that goes around starting little fires until there is a wild fire that burns across all of Baldwin county!

With love,  
Freedom Youth Team

## Missions

As I was in my Bible study this week, I was digging into Luke 13. Luke 13:22-30 is the passage about "The Narrow Door." As I read this passage, it occurred to me that it is truly speaking to us all. The people proverbially responded that they ate and drank in His presence. To ME this was an argument of the people and that even though we are "eating and drinking" in Christ's presence each week as we come to Freedom Church, it is not enough. Yes, we need to be fed, but we need to feed as well. We need to be a family of servers. We need to take opportunities to serve others. Serve in whatever capacity you are called or are commanded, as in "The Great Commission." Feeding the hungry, ministering to the widows and orphans, clothe the naked. That's the sort of thing we're supposed to do. It's hard, but it leads to the "narrow door" and Christ never promised an easy way.

One opportunity to serve is through missions. We are taking a team to Tizimin, Yucatan, Mexico May 29th - June 5th. Please consider this opportunity to serve with us. There is a \$100 non-refundable deposit due on February 10th after the worship service (there's that word again). This will insure your spot on the team. I will get you the required forms when you sign up. If you can't go, there are other ways to help as we prepare for the trip and while we're there. Please see me for information on how you can make a difference.

May God continue to bless you in abundance,  
Butch Hedgepath

Like us on Facebook!



## Bible Readings for February

<b>Jan. 28-Feb. 3:</b>	<b>Matthew 20-24 / Psalms 15-17</b>
<b>Feb. 4-10:</b>	<b>Matthew 25-28 / Romans 1 / Psalm 18</b>
<b>Feb. 11-17:</b>	<b>Romans 2-6 / Psalms 19-21</b>
<b>Feb. 18-24:</b>	<b>Romans 7-11 / Psalms 22-24</b>
<b>Feb. 25-Mar. 3:</b>	<b>Romans 12-16 / Psalms 25-27</b>

*The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
- Psalm 27:1*



### Freedom Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	Mark Price	mark@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Student Ministers</b>	Charlie and Katie Lemon	charlie@myfreedomchurch.net katie@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Student Ministry Interns</b>	Stone and Caroline Keener	stone@myfreedomchurch.net caroline@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Worship Pastor</b>	Tony Edwards	tony@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Children's Minister</b>	Lyn Davison	lyn@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Beth Osborne	beth@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Preschool Minister</b>	Sabrina Ankerson	sabrina@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Celebrate Recovery Pastors</b>	John Beck Salley Beck	john@myfreedomchurch.net salley@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Missions Pastor</b>	Butch Hedgepath	butch@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Media Director</b>	Dave Wilson	dave@myfreedomchurch.net



**Not able to be with us on Sunday? Join us live online at 10 am!**