

FROM Foothold TO FREEDOM

SERMON NOTES:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

— **John 10:10 (NIV)**

But the hand of the Lord was heavy upon those of Ashdod, and he destroyed them and smote them with hemorrhoids in Ashdod and within all their borders.

— **1 Samuel 5:6 (JUB)**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

— **John 8:31-34 (NIV)**

And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion. But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies,

Hope City

no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself. Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life. Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

— **Ephesians 4:17-30 (MSG)**

You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

— **Hebrews 5:12 (NLT)**

You get to choose what you allow in your life.

Nor give place to the devil.

— **Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)**

You have to shut the door.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

— **1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)**

The 3 Doors:

1. Lust of the flesh. 2. Lust of the eyes. 3. Pride of life.

1. Lust of the Flesh - Our Passions

Hope City

2. Lust of the Eyes - Our Possessions

3. Pride of Life - Our Position

The antidote for the lust of the flesh:

1. Integrity

What shuts the door on possessions?

2. Generosity

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

— **Luke 6:38 (NKJV)**

Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

— **Luke 6:37 (NKJV)**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

— **Matthew 6:21 (NIV)**

Jesus isn't interested in your money He's interested in your heart.

The antidote to pride:

3. Humility

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.

He must become greater; I must become less.

— **John 3:30 (NIV)**

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. In what ways does the enemy lie to you personally? What lies have you believed?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to shut the door to the enemy?
3. Matthew 6:21 says, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Where do you feel your heart lies most of the time?
4. Lust of the flesh - How can you start living with more integrity this week?
5. Lust of the eyes - How can you start living a life of generosity this week?
6. Pride of life - How can you humble yourself this week?

Pray together with your group.