

# BOUND TO BE FREE

Escaping Performance to be Captured by Grace

## ***Eight-Week Small Group Curriculum***

BASED ON THE BOOK

*Bound to Be Free: Escaping Performance  
to Be Captured by Grace*

By D. A. Horton

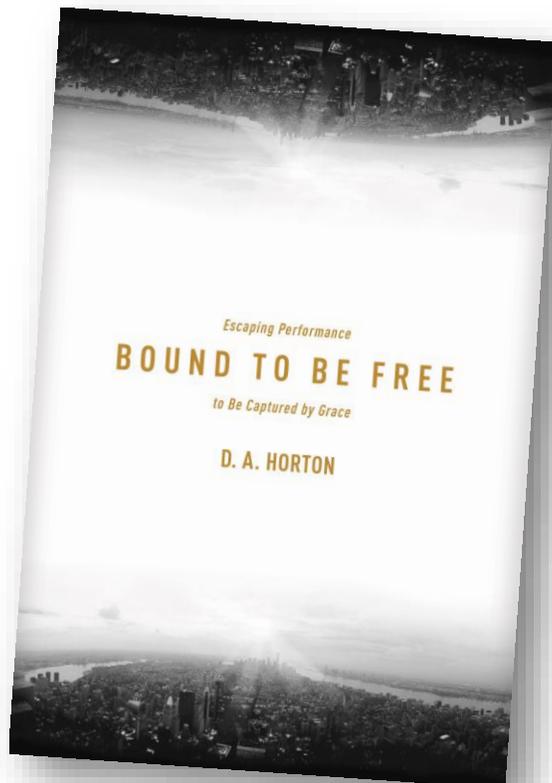
*Bound to Be Free: Escaping Performance to  
Be Captured by Grace*

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## Introduction: A Word to Leaders

Life was not meant to be enjoyed alone. We live our life of faith more vibrantly when we journey with others. For this reason, I encourage a communal experience for those who seeking freedom from performance while living in the freedom of Jesus Christ. *Bound to Be Free* is my most transparent work—and when saturated by the truth of God’s Word, transparency offers a Holy Spirit-led pathway to life transformation. My hope is that churches, Bible studies, and other gatherings of Christ followers will use this small group resource to help freedom seekers find their answer in Jesus.

As the small group leader, this guide provides questions to prompt deep, meaningful conversations. You know your group’s life-situations and needs, so contextualize the questions to your group. The content of *Bound to Be Free* is rooted in Scripture, so as you read and work through the small group materials, be sure to have Bibles nearby. I also challenge you to prepare for enter each session with your small group by asking God the Holy Spirit to provide you with courage and grace to lead the discussion. Vulnerability can be hard, but don’t be afraid to share your responses. Your peers need to hear your story just as much as you need to hear theirs. As you see how each person’s story connects with God’s overarching story, I pray that you will be encouraged by how God has been involved in your life, working on your behalf to turn your eyes toward Jesus Christ.

Finally, the most important factor to consider is the need for continued community after you’re done with this small group study. If you already have a small group that meets regularly, you may have this community. If not, you may find this study will catapult your meeting regularly in community with other believers.

Imagine what our cities and nation would look like with tens of thousands of believers living in the freedom of Christ to put God’s glory on display. You play a vital role in shaping our nation’s culture by working through this content. May the Lord bless your efforts. Go get ‘em!

- **D. A. Horton**

# Small Group Curriculum Overview

## SMALL GROUP STRUCTURE

- Each meeting should ideally last around two hours. Open each session with prayer. Ask God to maximize your time together for His glory and to edify your small group members.
- The instruction portion in this guide should last no more than thirty minutes per meeting, leaving an hour and a half for conversations around the questions.
- Encourage participants to set aside at least an hour each week to read the relevant chapter(s) of *Bound to Be Free*, and the accompanying Scriptures.

## IN PREPARATION FOR KICK-OFF

- If this is a new small group, gain permission from your church leadership to facilitate. I suggest you limit the participation to a maximum of twelve people.
- Review *Bound to Be Free* enough so that you can explain its format, which is divided into two sections:
  - First Four Weeks: Section One deals with the four walls of the performance trap-- Trajectory, Relationships, Affirmation, and Peers.
  - Final Four Weeks: Section Two deals with the four boundaries of living in the trap of God's grace--Trust in God, Reconciliation to God, Affection from God, and Partnership with the Saints of God.
- Decide logistics--when and where to meet, and the responsibilities of the host.
- Purchase copies of *Bound to Be Free* at your favorite Christian bookstore or online. You may also order on NavPress.com, with bulk discounts beginning at 10 copies, and free shipping on orders of \$35 or more.
- Check in with each member individually. Make sure each person has a Bible.

## LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EACH SESSION

- Follow the small group requisites of reading the chapter and Scripture for that week.
- Read the Weekly Introduction.
- Read the Leader Teaching Section and related Scripture. You.
- Review the leader cues (» *and* italicized) for that week, so you are ready to engage your small group into dialogue and activity.
- Contact your group members at least once during the week. Challenge them to apply the Scriptures they're learning to their everyday life.
- Pray for each member of your small group. Ask God to provide them with the freedom in Christ we were all designed to have and enjoy.

## WEEK 1: TRAJECTORY

### Read Introduction and Chapter 1: Trajectory

#### Introduction to Week 1

In the introduction, D. A. said that when his wife said the words “I’m done,” he entered the doorway of brokenness. In your life, what situation or statement brought you to the doorway of brokenness? If you haven’t reached that place, what prevents you from approaching the doorway of brokenness?

» *Allow participants time to work through their stories.*

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#### LEADER TEACHING SECTION

Let’s take a look at **Romans 4:20-24** to see how God’s story (Scripture) uses Abraham’s story to connect with our story. (» *Leader reads Romans 4:20-24*)

In this passage Paul uses words we see in the financial world: *accredited* or *counted*. D. A. points to Paul’s words to show how all of us are born in spiritual debt.

- We’ve inherited this spiritual debt from our first father, Adam (**Romans 5:12**).
- Since we’ve all sinned, we’re slaves to sin (**John 8:34**) and we can’t pay off our debt.
- We need to become righteous but are unrighteous. We must follow God’s instructions on how we can become righteous.

On **pages 33-34** we read, “We need to believe what God has said regarding how we can be ‘declared righteous.’ The only way for us to be declared righteous is by believing that Jesus Christ is the only qualified Savior to save sinners out of their state of sinfulness (**John 14:6**). We’re declaring spiritual bankruptcy.”

#### Questions

- *Do you recognize your inherited spiritual debt?*
- *Have you declared spiritual bankruptcy and embraced Christ as your Savior?*

We take time to plan our days, seasons, careers, and life. But the unfortunately reality of life is that plans change. D. A. mentions two passages of Scripture on **page 9: Psalm 37:4** and **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

» *Ask for two volunteers to read the passages.*

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#### Questions

- On **page 2**, D. A. introduces the term *self-induced legalism* and says that self-induced legalists “think they can earn a right standing with God by living a life of complete moral perfection.” How does this term and definition strike you?
- Have you struggled with self-induced legalism like D. A. did with his “law of 5:30 a.m.”?

- Look at the passages in Psalms and Proverbs that we just read. What do these passages say about our plans and God’s involvement?
- » *Make sure the members understand that we should regularly seek the Lord’s will for our lives as He directs our trajectory.*
- In the first chapter we read about our trajectory in life. Another way of framing this is by talking through our personal trajectory as our own personal narrative or story. Would anyone like to take a few moments to share their story?
- » *If no one steps up, it may be best for you to lead by sharing your story and connecting it back to God’s story in Scripture.*
- As we read about Abraham’s story (starting on **page 28**), what sticks out to you about the timing, tension, and turmoil? Can you sympathize with his struggles regarding waiting for God’s promise to be seen in your life?
- » **NOTE:** *Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and lead the conversation toward a time of personal reflection about where everyone stands in relation to God—“in debt” or “bailed out by Christ.” Some may want to make a profession of faith or recommit themselves to Christ. Give them the space to do this.*

## Conclusion

- » *Close your time out in prayer, asking God to provide you all with the grace you need to understand how the gospel affects our daily lives. Ask God to prepare your hearts for the next time you gather, when you’ll talk about relationships.*

## WEEK 2: RELATIONSHIPS

### Read Chapter 2: Relationships

#### Introduction to Week 2

Let's focus on the second wall of the performance trap: relationships—the good, bad, and ugly. The fact is, God is relational and has created us to be relational too.

» *Ask for a volunteer to read the section "We're Relational Beings" (pages 37-38),*

Sin has broken our relationship with God, and, as D. A. points out on **page 57**, Jesus is the sole answer to that broken relationship. Jesus' performance is what matters—not ours.

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#### LEADER TEACHING SECTION

Let's take a look at **Romans 4:24** and examine what Jesus' perfect life means for us. (Leader reads **Romans 4:24**.)

On **page 58** D. A. said, "In order for sinners like you and me to be declared righteous, we must believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He offered His perfect life in the place of sinners. If His life hadn't been perfectly obedient to God's commands, His sacrifice would benefit no one, not even Himself."

» *Ask a volunteer to read **Matthew 5:48**.*

#### Questions

- How does this verse connect with both **Romans 4:24** and what D. A. said about Jesus offering His perfect life in place of our sinful lives?
- What does the Bible say about sinners like us, who have embraced Jesus as our Savior, and are now seen as "righteous" although we were born "unrighteous"?

» *If no one responds, have people read: **Isaiah 61:10**, **1 Corinthians 1:30**, and **Philippians 3:9** and discuss their thoughts.*

» *Have someone read the paragraph on **page 60** that starts with, "New Testament scholar Eduard Schweizer. . ." Walk your group through how Jesus lived perfectly on our behalf. We who have embraced Him as Savior are clothed in His perfection!*

#### Questions

- If this is our reality, what do we do with the fact we still sin? How can we be seen as being perfect (because of God's perfection) when we still sin every day?

» *Allow your group a few moments to answer.*

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» *Lead them by reading the last sentence on **page 60** all the way through the end of the chapter on **page 62**.*

- What's your feedback regarding all that was just read?
- How can the truths we worked through during our time together impact your life at home, work, and everywhere in between?
- When we make mistakes, we know we'll face consequences in one form or another. So when we sin (or miss the mark of perfection), it could be easy for us to assume that God is burning in anger toward us and doesn't want to be around us anymore. D. A. speaks to this on **pages 42-43** by sharing the difference between condemnation and conviction.

» *Ask a volunteer read the last paragraph on **page 42** through the middle of **page 43** (stop before the "Peers" section starts).*

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## Questions

- In the introduction of *Bound to Be Free*, D. A. opened up his heart and expressed the depth of the hurt his dad caused. He then expressed how he transferred his view of his dad on to God. Have you noticed in similar pattern in your life? If yes, how has that impacted your relationship with God?
- What do you think about the idea that pain caused by your parent (or guardian) can shape your view of God? Does it resonate at all?
- Beyond our relationships with our parents, our relationships with peers (or friends) and potentials (partners, spouses, etc.) can have a big impact on our lives. How do the broken relationships of your past affect your life today?

## Conclusion

» *Close your time out in prayer, asking God to provide you all with the grace you need to understand how the perfection of Jesus covers those who are in sin and how this should not lead us to sin freely because we're forgiven. Ask God to prepare your hearts for the next time you gather, when you'll work through affirmation.*

## WEEK 3: AFFIRMATION

### Read: Chapter 3: Affirmation

#### Introduction to Week 3

As we continue to work through the walls of the performance trap, today we shift our focus to the third wall: affirmation. *Ask for a volunteer to read the two paragraphs under the heading “The Pressure of Affirmation” (pages 64-65).*

D. A. stated that there are two primary causes for our hearts being broken by those who are stakeholders of our hearts: negativity and neglect. On **page 69** D. A. said that negativity binds us in two ways: (1) it causes us to be fearful of asking our stakeholders of their opinions about our life and work, and (2) it allows us to assume we’ll never be good enough to receive positive affirmation from our stakeholders. How has negativity from stakeholders impacted your life?

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#### *LEADER TEACHING SECTION*

**Romans 4:24-25** deepens our understanding of how being justified impacts our hearts in light of the lack of affirmation we’ve received from stakeholders. (Leader reads **Romans 4:24-25**.)

The word *justified* is written here to indicate that those whom Christ saves are the recipients of justification. They don’t have to work to become justified.

#### Questions

- Can I have a volunteer read the last paragraph on **page 74**?
- How do the words in this paragraph relate to your life?

Often when we think of God we can feel like we’re at war with Him, but as we look at **Romans 4:24-25** we see that in Christ we have peace with God.

- Can I have a volunteer read the first two paragraphs on **page 75**?
- What are some thoughts, feelings, or experiences that are keeping you from resting in the work of Jesus that provides you with peace with God?

On **page 79** D. A. said, “We must make the conscious decision every day to fight our fleshly belief that peace with God is a feeling and not a fact—and we need especially to do this when we are wrestling with the lack of affirmation in our lives.”

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#### Questions

- Revisit the discussion of neglect on **page 69**. How have you dealt with the neglect of your stakeholders?
- What are some proactive ways you can remind your flesh this week that your feelings are not always factual and therefore you shouldn’t invest your time into entertaining them?

» *This is a good place to introduce group members to or remind them of spiritual disciplines like scripture reading and memorization, prayer, fasting, etc.*

- What do you think it means to “fight our fleshly belief”?

» *Make group members aware that any thoughts, feelings, and experiences they mentioned earlier that are contrary to God’s Word do not come from God, but rather from their flesh. We must fight against those fleshly beliefs.*

## Conclusion

» *Close your time out in prayer, asking God to provide you all with the grace you need to understand how being justified by Jesus allows us to receive ongoing affirmation from God, even when our stakeholders don’t affirm us. Ask God to prepare your hearts for the next time you gather, when you’ll work through deeper issues with peers.*

## WEEK 4: PEERS

### Read: Chapter 4: Peers

#### Introduction to Week 4

The final wall in the performance trap involves our peers. We just worked through the tensions of not receiving affirmation from our stakeholders. Imagine how we might feel when they withhold affirmation from us but give it to one of our peers! This leads to us comparing ourselves to and competing with our peers.

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#### *LEADER TEACHING SECTION*

Let's take a look at **Romans 5:1-2** in order to identify a game plan for dealing with the tension we may have with our peers. (Leader reads **Romans 5:1-2**.)

In **Romans 5:2** Paul uses the personal pronoun *we*—which reminds us that our peers in the Body of Christ receive God's grace just like we do! They are no better or worse off in God's eyes than we are. Each of us depends on Christ's work for our justification.

D. A. shared a story about getting an All Access Pass to a conference, but noted that the pass came with an expiration date. Then he compared that to the access every believer has with God.

» *Have somebody read **Hebrews 4:16**.*

#### Question

- How does this passage speak to the idea of your approaching God at any moment of any day?

In **Romans 5:2** Paul wrote, "Into this grace in which we stand." The verb *stand* is written in the Greek perfect tense, which means the access we have to God's very throne has no expiration date! We really can't appreciate this benefit without considering how in times past God didn't offer direct access into His presence to everyone at any given time.

» *Have somebody read the **last paragraph on page 95**.*

#### Question

What are some ways we can prepare our hearts daily to remember that every believer has been blessed with the same direct access to God, unlike in times past?

» *Lead them toward the understanding that they and their peers in Christ have the same access to God, so there should be no ongoing jealousy.*

We all must be reassured that God does not love others more than He loves us. Before we close in prayer tonight, have someone read **pages 96-97**.

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On **page 88** D. A. introduced the ABCs of jealousy: anger, bitterness, and complaints. Let's take some time to read through each of these.

## Questions

- Can I have a volunteer read the description of anger on **pages 89-90**? Share your thoughts on the connection between anger and passive-aggressiveness.
- Can I have a volunteer read the description of bitterness on **page 90**? Share your insights regarding the soil and seed illustration.
- Can I have a volunteer read the description of complaints on **page 91**? Explain how social-media has played a role in your life regarding the way you "rant" or complain about your peers.

## Conclusion

» *Close your time out in prayer, asking God to provide you all with the grace you need to fight against the ABCs of jealousy by being assured of His love for us. Ask God to prepare your hearts for the next time you gather, when you'll work through how we can trust in God with directing our life's trajectory.*

## WEEK 5: TRUST IN GOD

### Read Chapter 5: Trust in God

#### Introduction to Week 5

During this time together, we will begin to work through freedom from the performance trap and understand how the trap of God's grace is our liberating alternative.

» Take some time to review the walls of the performance trap (*Trajectory, Relationships, Affirmation, and Peers*) in order to highlight the boundaries of the trap of God's grace we will be looking at over the next four weeks (*Trust in God, Reconciliation to God, Affection from God, and Partnerships with the Saints of God*).

The "T" in the performance trap stood for our trajectory, but the "T" in the trap of God's grace is the boundary of trust in God. We are called to trust Him with the direction of our life. We must not be quick to assume He has left us when things change or get tough. In fact, hardships are guaranteed to come into the life of every believer. For this reason, Paul provided us with insights on how we can trust in God in the midst of life changes and trials.

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### LEADER TEACHING SECTION

Let's take a look at **Romans 5:3** to gain insight on how we should respond to life changes and trials and how our response actually provides us endurance for life. (Leader reads **Romans 5:3**.)

Paul started out by saying that we as believers, who are living in the trap of God's grace, should "rejoice in our afflictions." Although it's hard and not natural to rejoice while we're enduring various afflictions, we must realize that it takes a supernatural ability to respond in such way.

The word Paul uses for *affliction* means "trouble that inflicts *distress, oppression, affliction, and tribulation*."<sup>i</sup>

These are moments every believer faces—however, it's comforting to know we don't face them alone! God doesn't abandon us during these moments, and He will never allow them to totally crush us.

» Ask for volunteers to read:

- **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**
- **James 1:2-4**
- **the last paragraph on page 109.**

In **Romans 5:3** we see Paul tell us that when we rejoice in our afflictions, we have strength to endure through life.

The word for *endurance* means "the ability to remain under difficulties without giving in."<sup>ii</sup> When changes in our life arise and our trajectories change, we don't have to feel like giving up on God, our faith, or the Body of Christ.

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In fact, it's during these times that we must lean on the body of Christ to provide help us make it through. When we place our trust in God, we see that past failures were actually future faith builders for the work God has called us to do, for His glory!

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## Questions

- Often in times of suffering or trials we turn to things that comfort us. This is not bad— however, it can be if over time we don't turn to Christ. What are some of the comforts you turn before turning to Jesus?
- D. A. opened up about his wife being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. This was something he and Elicia didn't plan or expect, but they see how God worked this situation out for their good (by confirming His call on them to move to Los Angeles) and His glory. What are some life-changing phone calls you have received, and how did God work them out for your good and His glory?
- How has your life's trajectory changed over the past few years? How has God been faithful to you during each season of transition?
- D. A. was honest about his poor assessment of past life experiences. He felt like a failure until a friend told him he was looking at his past from the wrong point of view. Have you done this to yourself? If so, would you mind sharing with us so that perhaps we could encourage you from our vantage point of your life?
- What are three obstacles in your life right now that are keeping you from trusting God with your life's direction?

## Conclusion

» *Close your time out in prayer, asking God to provide you all with the strength to endure as a community through life's changes and trials. Ask God for grace during this week as He prepares your hearts for gathering next week, when you'll work through what it means to be reconciled to God through Christ.*

## WEEK 6: RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

### Read Chapter 6: Reconciliation with God

#### Introduction to Week 6

This week we're talking through the second boundary in the trap of God's grace: reconciliation with God. We will compare this with the second wall in the performance trap: relationships. We will work through a passage that helps us see how our relationship with God has been restored through Christ and how this provides us with healing from all our relational wounds.

It's important to be reminded that our relationship with God is not dependent on our performance. Jesus' perfect life and righteousness now covers those of us who are in Him. This truth provides us with the freedom to walk confidently in with God because we have been reconciled to Him.

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#### *LEADER TEACHING SECTION*

Let's take a look at **Romans 5:4** and see how our endurance in life produces character. (Leader reads **Romans 5:4**)

Paul wrote, "Endurance produces proven character." As we trust in God through our life transitions and trials, we learn to endure through whatever life throws our way. Our endurance is rooted in our relationship with God through Christ.

The words for *proven character* carry the idea of a precious metal that has been purified through a fire.

Our seasons of transition and trial can feel like fire. But when we go through them, they are actually purifying us. God is allowing them to burn out the impurities of our flesh and even the comforts we would go to first instead of going to God.

D. A. said that just as precious metal is purified through a fire, those of us who are in Christ will face an evaluation before Him regarding our actions while we were believers.

» Ask for volunteers to read:

- **1 Corinthians 3:9-13**
- **2 Corinthians 5:10**

Read the final two paragraphs on **page 129** through the section that ends on page 130 before "Reconciliation through Hope."

» Ask for a volunteer to read **Philippians 4:13**

In **Romans 5:4** we also see Paul wrote that our character produces hope. Biblical hope is a guarantee, not a gamble!

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This hope that we possess has been given to us because we're in Christ—we have been reconciled to God through Christ, and endurance, character, and hope are some of the benefits we've been given because of our reconciliation!

Now that we've been reconciled to God, He's called us to be ministers of reconciliation. This includes sharing the gospel so others can be reconciled to God, as well as forgiving those who have offended us and seeking reconciliation with them.

» *Ask volunteers to read:*

- **2 Corinthians 5:11-21**
- **Matthew 6:14-14**
- **Colossians 3:13**

» *Read the last two paragraphs of the chapter on **pages 136-137** that deal with walking in forgiveness.*

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## Questions

- As we are working through tough issues like forgiveness and reconciliation, we must start with an important question: have you been reconciled to God through Christ Jesus?
- In this chapter D. A. gave us insight into the process of forgiveness and reconciliation with his dad. Knowing the depth of the pain his dad caused, are you encouraged by seeing God's power on display through this reconciliation? In your life, have you had a similar experience?
- As you read this chapter and heard the Scriptures read, what person who has hurt you popped into your mind?
- Going forward, what will it look like to walk in forgiveness toward those who have caused relational wounds in your life?

## Conclusion

» *Close your time out in prayer, asking God to provide you all with the strength to walk in forgiveness toward those who have hurt you deeply. Ask God for courage to make things right with those you've wronged. Ask God to prepare your hearts for the next time you gather, when you'll work through the fact we are all recipients of God's affection.*

## WEEK 7: AFFECTION FROM GOD

### Read Chapter 7: Affection from God

#### Introduction to Week 7

This week we're going to process through the third boundary in the trap of God's grace: affection from God. This boundary is compared and contrasted with the third wall of the performance trap: affirmation. We talked through the pain of receiving negativity and neglect from the stakeholders of our hearts. Now that we've been reconciled to God through Christ, we can understand how God's affection is given to us unconditionally. It's not based on our performance. This truth gives us strength during the times when our stakeholders withhold affirmation.

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#### *LEADER TEACHING SECTION*

Let's take a look at **Romans 5:5** to learn how God's affection is given to us in every moment of life, even when affirmation from our stakeholders is absent. (Leader reads **Romans 5:5**.)

In **Romans 5:5** Paul wrote, "This hope will not disappoint us." The hope he was referring to is what we read last week in **Romans 5:4**.

Remember, biblical hope is a guarantee, not a gamble. The evidence of this is that as we trust God through the seasons of life, over time we will see our growth (maturity) in Christ and not be disappointed!

» *Ask volunteers to read*

- **2 Corinthians 3:18.**
- *the last sentence on page 140 through the end of the first paragraph on page 142.*

Our growth in Christ is a process. It doesn't happen all at once.

We must stop being hard on ourselves when we fail, fall into sin, or see signs of continued spiritual immaturity. This is why it's good to be plugged into a local church, so that your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ can see your growth and make you aware of it, especially during the times you can't see it!

In **Romans 5:5** Paul also said that God's love has been "poured out into our hearts."

God's love is unlimited. Think about that for a moment. There are literally no ways to measure God's love!

God has chosen to pour this limitless love into the hearts of those who know Him!

We have no reason to stay in the performance trap when we realize that God's unlimited love and unconditional affection has been poured into our hearts!

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Now we have the opportunity to share this love with those who are still in the performance trap and thirsty for affirmation.

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## Questions

- Why do you think God designed our growth in Christ to be a process involving a community of believers, instead of being realized all at once in isolation?
- How often do you acknowledge the growth and maturity in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ and share with them how you see their growth?
- Can we take time to go around the room and speak words of affection to each other regarding the growth we've seen since we started this study through *Bound to Be Free*?
- What are three ways this week you can expose people stuck in the performance trap to the unconditional love of God that He wants to pour into their hearts?

## Conclusion

» *Close your time in prayer, praising God for His unlimited and unconditional love. Take time to really hit this truth, camp on it, and ask God for grace to share this love with others. Ask God for wisdom this week in how He can prepare your hearts for working through how we as believers can work in partnership together for His glory.*

## WEEK 8: PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SAINTS OF GOD

### Read Chapter 8: Partnership with the Saints of God

#### Introduction to Week 8

This is our final week working through *Bound to Be Free*, and there is no better way to end than understanding our need for partnerships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The fourth boundary in the trap of God's grace is partnership with the saints of God. This boundary is contrasted with the fourth wall in the performance trap: peers.

Inside the performance trap we view our peers though the lens of comparison and competition. In doing this we set ourselves up to live out the ABCs of jealousy. Life this way is miserable. But praise God that His Word gives us insights on how *not* to live this way any longer. Tonight we'll work through practical applications from God's Word on how to do this.

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#### *LEADER TEACHING SECTION*

Let's take a look at **Romans 8:9-13** to see how God the Holy Spirit is our source of strength for living out healthy partnerships with those in the Body of Christ. (Leader reads **Romans 8:9-13**.)

In **Romans 8:9-13**, we read that God the Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer. At the moment when we embrace Jesus as our Savior, God the Holy Spirit resides in our heart.

D. A. shared the story of two different houses on the same block. One was vacant and the other had a family living it. He could tell based on the signs of life and death on each house.

As believers who have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, when we work in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we're showing signs of spiritual life, not death!

When the Holy Spirit moves in, He wants to do an extreme makeover project on our heart. D. A. shared examples of what this can look like:

» *Ask for volunteers to read*

- *the section "A Hotel Room versus a Home" (pages 154-156)*
- **1 Corinthians 6:20**
- **Ephesians 1:7**
- **1 Peter 1:18-19**

We belong to Jesus. He purchased us out of sin slavery with His blood and desires to refurbish our hearts for His glory!

D. A. mentioned practices he uses to fight against issues with peers.

» *Ask volunteers to read:*

- *"The Poison in My Heart" (pages 156-157)*
- *"Prayer for My Brothers and Sisters" (pages 157-158)*

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In the epilogue, D. A. took time to work through the unfailing love of God, commissioning us to take the material we've worked through and share it with others so that they also may escape performance in order to be bound by grace. He rooted his thoughts in **Romans 5:6-8**.

» *Ask a volunteer to read these verses.*

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### Questions:

- What are the areas of your heart God wants to renovate?
- What are two issues keeping you from asking God to remove the poison in your heart so you can pray for those you've seen as competition?
- How does God's unfailing love for you motivate you to share it with others?
- Do you think you're in a place to lead others through this study like I've led you?

### Conclusion

» *Close your time out in prayer, praising God for the work He's done in all of your lives through this study. Ask Him to keep you all connected, so you all can enjoy walking in the freedom of Christ together, while inviting others into community with you all.*

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<sup>i</sup> Walter Arndt, F. W. Danker, Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 457. Italics in original

<sup>ii</sup> John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1983), 456.