



# Alive & Free

## Freedom In Christ Canada

### From the Director...

“The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn’t diminish or weaken over time. It’s the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger... From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you’ve been hungry for more.”  
~ Colossians 1:6 (The Message)

It was in January 1992 when I first heard Dr. Anderson preach the freedom message as he made his first trip to Canada. Little did I know then it would become my life journey. Never did I imagine that when I joined this ministry in 1995 that I would still be with Freedom In Christ in 2008. **THE MESSAGE GETS IN YOUR BLOOD!** As Paul wrote in Colossians, we hunger for more. It works! It produces fruit! Knowing the truth makes a difference! It changes lives! It transformed mine! Now I’m seeing the impact it is having around the world as the International Prayer Coordinator for Freedom In Christ Ministries International (FICMI).

In December I visited our office in the United States, and I just returned from the Freedom In Christ offices in Switzerland and England in January. In March I plan to travel to India to see the impact Freedom In Christ is having there. The Message is

alive and well and producing fruit around the world. What a privilege I have to see it first hand and to pray with each office. My goal in visiting each office is to teach on prayer, implement a prayer plan of action, and encourage FIC staff around the world to pray for each other. Out of these visits to each office, I believe God will provide a



**Clay Bergen with UK Staff and Prayer Team ~ January 2008**

Global Prayer Strategy (GPS)—a prayer plan for FIC with common denominators. I believe that there are three things that already unite our ministry around the world. First is our faith in Jesus Christ. Second is the message of freedom that we have been given to share with others. And third, the relationship we have in praying for each other. As a body of believers united by a common message, we need each other. We face daily battles that try to discourage us from fulfilling the calling on our

lives. Praying for each other is what provides that spiritual covering in times of our greatest need.

One of our Core Values of FICMI is that “We worship God and believe that prayer is our greatest work.” As we begin to expand our global impact, it is essential that we have a strong prayer base. We have representatives in South Africa, Liberia, France, Malaysia, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Columbia and Venezuela. Our desire is to see FIC offices in all of these countries, plus many more! Everywhere Dr. Neil T. Anderson has gone, the response has been amazing. The message of freedom is for everyone—and prayer is the key in unlocking this message and allowing us to move forward.

Our Canadian office just spent a day evaluating how we are doing and what we need to do to improve our prayer covering. It is easy to let prayer slide as we get busy and forget where our strength comes from. Thank you to those who have been called by God to pray for us. You are a crucial part of our ministry! If you are burdened to pray for us, please let us know by checking off the appropriate box on page 4. We would be glad to send you our regular prayer updates by email.

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**FICMI Core Value #2:**

**We Worship God and Believe that Prayer is our Greatest Work (John 4:23)**

Worship is to ascribe and embrace the true attributes of God, both corporately and individually, and then live accordingly. We strive to practice the presence of God and consider prayer our first priority, seeking to know Him and to do His will. We don’t try to manipulate God or persuade Him to our point of view. We desire to be on the path that He has chosen for us, and choose to identify with Jesus when He said, “Not my will be done, but Your will be done.” We try to bathe everything we do in prayer, not asking God to bless our plans, but submitting to His plans as discerned in prayer. We believe that Paul’s instruction in Ephesians 6 on the armor of God concludes with the admonition for all believers to pray at all times in the Spirit. The prayers that God the Holy Spirit prompts us to pray are the prayers that God answers. God uses such prayers to accomplish His work through us.



# Freed from Legalism: A Testimony

Dealing with legalism had been on my mind for a while, and when an opportunity came up to attend a workshop with Paul Travis—one of the authors of *Breaking the Bondage of Legalism*—I jumped at the chance.

Legalism, unfortunately, had been a long-time companion of mine. I was surprised when I learned about how many other issues were Legalism’s friends. Not only does Perfectionism go hand in hand with Legalism, but so do Independence, Judgmentalism, Fear and Pride to name a few. A light bulb went on when I heard about these ‘friends/associates’ of Legalism because when I have

**Legalism is accepting any belief or conviction that favour with God can be earned. It is adherence to any law or standard in order to attain, gain or maintain God’s acceptance.**

tried to deal with them in the past, they never left for very long. Strangely enough, it had not occurred to me that Legalism could be the root of such things as Perfectionism or Fear or High Expectations of Others.

If there are some issues in your life that you’ve struggled with for years, thought you’d dealt with only to finding them crop up again and again, may I suggest the *Steps to Breaking the Bondage of Legalism*. I did them myself recently and found that although there were no great Aha! moments, I felt God’s love, grace, acceptance and encouragement in a new way. The most touching moment for me came when I read this affirmation at the end of the process: I affirm that God’s strength is made perfect in my weakness and that His grace is sufficient for me. I wrote in the margin, “This means I can fail.” If this is what I was to learn, it was worth it!

## Breaking the Bondage of Legalism—Step 2: Confessing Sins\*

As mentioned above, I had no idea legalism had permeated so many areas of my life. We’ve included one portion of the “Steps to Breaking the Bondage of Legalism” below to show what and where this happens. Feel free to work through this step with the opening and closing prayers.

### Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, You have told me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust (Romans 13:14). I confess that I have often given in to fleshly lusts, which wage war against my soul (1 Peter 2:11). I thank You that in Christ my sins are already forgiven, but I have broken Your holy law and given the devil a chance to wage war in my body (Romans 6:12, 13; James 4:1; 1 Peter 5:8). I come to You now to confess and renounce these sins of the flesh (Proverbs 28:13; 2 Corinthians 4:2) so that I might be cleansed and set free from the bondage of sin. Please reveal to my mind the sins of the flesh I have committed and the ways I have grieved the Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ holy name, I pray, amen.

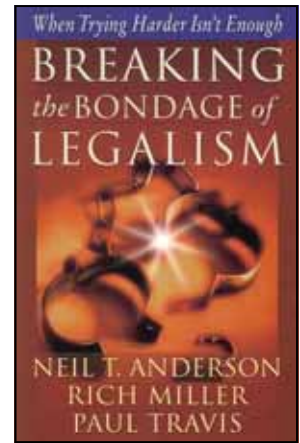
### Categories of Sin:

#### PERFORMANCE

- Trying to keep God’s commands in order to earn God’s acceptance or favour
- Trying to keep God’s commands in my own strength
- Trying to measure up to the standards of others in order to be accepted
- Being driven to work harder and harder in order to succeed
- Feeling like achievement is the means of gaining personal happiness and a sense of worth
- Centering my life around keeping laws rather than knowing the Lord

#### PERFECTIONISM

- Living with the fear of failure
- Being afraid of going to hell because I have not kept God’s law perfectly
- Being unable to accept God’s grace because I think I need to be punished (even though Jesus said my sins were “Paid in full” on the cross!)
- Being obsessed with doing everything perfectly and keeping things in exact order
- Sweating the small stuff
- Having unreasonable expectations of perfection in others
- Being angry at others when they disrupt your neatly controlled world
- Punishing others when they are not perfect
- Not able to experience joy and satisfaction in life unless something you do is absolutely perfect



Breaking the Bondage of Legalism is available through Freedom In Christ Canada for \$13.

Order today and we’ll send you a FREE booklet version of the Steps to Breaking the Bondage of Legalism.





# Breaking the Bondage of Legalism—Step 2 continued...

## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

- Thinkning that you are more spiritual, devoted, humble or devout than others
- Thinking that my church/denomination/etc. is better than others
- Not being willing to associate with others who are different (independent, separatist or isolationist spirit)
- Elevating religious opinions (like which translation of the Bible to use) to the level of inflexible convictions
- Not being willing to soften religious opinions in order to promote love, peace and unity among true brothers and sisters in Christ
- Finding it hard to admit that I am wrong; feeling like I always have to be right and prove to others I am right
- Bigotry against those of other races, economic and/or social groups

## PICKING APART (JUDGMENTALISM)

- Having a critical spirit toward worship styles, music, sermons, other people’s clothes, etc.; always being quick to criticize and critique
- Judging others (impugning their motives and character)
- Faultfinding with ministers (either your own or those of other churches)
- Intolerance of anyone who differs (unwillingness to listen to them on the radio or TV; unwillingness to read their books, etc.)
- Guilt-by-association thinking
- Labeling of others, placing them into religious categories and writing them off

## PERSISTENCE (UNHEALTHY)

- Being rigid in beliefs on which sincere Christians disagree
- Clinging to traditions in church that are not biblically based and which are not conducive toward reaching the current generation with the gospel
- Stubbornness and resistance to innovation by church leaders
- Close-mindedness; being unwilling to even listen to new ideas

## POWER AND DOMINANCE

- Using guilt and shame tactics to get others to do what I want
- Expecting or demanding others to attend every church service, be at every church function, etc.
- Controlling others by means of strong personality, persuasion, fear or intimidation
- Experiencing strong anxiety when I am not able to be in control
- Finding security in rules, regulations and standards rather than in the Lord
- Being more concerned about controlling others than in developing self-control
- Being driven to rise into more powerful positions in order to gain control and accomplish my agenda
- Feeling overly responsible for the lives and well-being of others

## PLEASURELESS LIVING

- Living a joyless life of duty and obligation
- Feeling guilty for experiencing or being secretive in pursuing pleasure
- Inability to rest and relax
- Workaholism
- Being strongly attracted to (or giving in to) illegal substances, illicit sex, pornography, etc. in order to escape or find some gratification
- Feeling and living as if pain and suffering were more spiritual than enjoying the good things God has given us

*As the Spirit of God reveals these (and/or other) areas of the flesh, confess and renounce them by praying the following prayer out loud from your heart:*

### Prayer:

**Dear Heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned by {name the sins of the flesh}. I agree that these attitudes and actions are not proper for a child of Yours; therefore, I renounce them all. I thank You for Your forgiveness and now yield myself to the Holy Spirit’s filling so that I might become more like Christ. I choose to allow You to develop the fruit of the Spirit in my life, which is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22,23). In Jesus’ holy name, I pray, amen. \*Breaking the Bondage of Legalism • Copyright © 2003 by Neil T. Anderson, Rich Miller, and Paul Travis • Published by Harvest House Publishers • Eugene, Oregon 97402**

As mentioned, this is only one portion of the “Steps to Breaking the Bondage of Legalism”. The other areas include: Renouncing Lies and Choosing Truth, Forgiveness, Fearing People versus Fearing God, and Surrendering Rights. If you would like to more fully deal with legalism, we recommend the book *Breaking the Bondage of Legalism* (shown on the previous page). Order your copy today by filling out the back page.



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Equipping the Body of Christ.

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*Have you been blessed by the ministry of Freedom In Christ and the resources of Dr. Neil T. Anderson? Have you experienced the freedom that Christ offers each and every one of His children? If your life has been touched or changed by this ministry, would you consider financially sowing into it—to bless, help and change the lives of countless others?*

*Freedom In Christ is a non-profit, faith-based ministry that exists to equip and resource the Body of Christ to be alive and free in Him. We rely on God to pay our bills through the sales of resources, seminar/conference fees, and your giving.*

*Donations may be made by cheque, MasterCard or VISA by filling out the form below or online at <http://www.CanadaHelps.org/>. Thank you!*



## *Proclaiming Freedom across Canada since 1992*

*Yes, I would like to partner with you in your ministry to bring the FREEDOM message to Canadians!*

- Receive Freedom In Christ quarterly newsletter
- Give a monthly gift of \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Give a one-time gift of \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Payment made by VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque \_\_\_\_\_
  - Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_
- Receive more information about being a Ministry Associate with Freedom In Christ
- Become a Prayer Partner with Freedom In Christ (receive monthly prayer updates by email)
- Please send me *Breaking the Bondage of Legalism* with a FREE booklet version of the Legalism Steps for \$17 including shipping and GST (*this offer is available until May 31, 2008*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
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