

2024 09 29 Elder Ken Schmidt Freedom for the Slave Song and Worship Service Notes

<https://youtu.be/nUCD66CTXZs>

<https://www.livinghopebranch.org/sermons/2024-09-29-elder-ken-schmidt-freedom-for-the-slave/>

Clickable Time Stamps

[31:07](#) Overview of Kirtland Gathering - Seventy Richard Neill

[35:16](#) Special Music - "I Want To Walk With Jesus" - Nancy Moe, Esther Hinkle, Kathy Stayton (The Smith Sisters)

[38:43](#) Welcome and Call to Worship - Elder Ivan Bird

[45:04](#) Special Music - "Father/Son" - Nancy Moe, Esther Hinkle, Kathy Stayton (The Smith Sisters)

[49:24](#) Sermon - "Freedom For The Slave" - Elder Ken Schmidt

2024 Kirtland Retreat Summary from Seventy Richard Neill

Seventy Richard Neill shared about a recent gathering at Kirtland Temple where 117 priesthood members from various branches of the Restoration attended. Richard highlighted the testimony of Riley Hall, who transformed his life from alcoholism to faith in the Restoration. Seven representatives from Living Hope were present, contributing powerful testimonies. The Lord's presence was felt, and Richard conveyed that God is with us, promising to bear fruit from this experience.

2024 Kirtland Retreat Key Insights from Seventy Richard Neill

- 1. Community Impact:** The collaboration between Living Hope and Stone Church emphasizes the importance of unity in community service, showcasing how various organizations can work together for a common goal.
- 2. Transformation Stories:** Riley Hall's testimony illustrates the power of personal transformation and redemption, highlighting that change is possible regardless of one's past.
- 3. Diverse Representation:** The presence of 32 branches and representatives from different regions signifies the diversity within the Restoration movement, promoting inclusivity and shared faith experiences.
- 4. Power of Testimony:** Sharing personal testimonies serves as a powerful tool for inspiration and encouragement, helping others to see the potential for change in their own lives.

5. **Divine Guidance:** The mention of God's presence during the gathering reassures participants of divine support, suggesting that collective efforts in faith are divinely ordained.
6. **Hope for the Future:** The expectation of "fruit" from this gathering indicates a forward-looking perspective, fostering hope and anticipation for future blessings and developments within the community.
7. **Spiritual Fellowship:** The gathering not only strengthens individual faith but also nurtures a sense of belonging and fellowship among members, reinforcing the bonds of community.

Sermon Summary

The sermon explores the concept of being enslaved to sin versus choosing to be a servant of God. It emphasizes the need for a change in nature through accepting salvation, which leads to a desire to please God rather than oneself. The message centers on the importance of voluntary servitude to God and others as a means to overcome sin and live in alignment with God's will.

Highlights

1. **Saved by Grace** - We cannot save ourselves; salvation is a free gift through Jesus.
2. **Sin Nature** - Our inherent sin nature leads us to prioritize self over God.
3. **Three Lusts** - The lust of the flesh, eyes, and pride of life distract us from God's will.
4. **Voluntary Slavery** - We can choose to be slaves to righteousness instead of sin.
5. **Transformation** - Accepting Christ changes our nature from self-centered to God-centered.
6. **Daily Choice** - Each day presents an opportunity to submit to God's will.
7. **Promises of God** - Being slaves to God opens us to His Spirit and blessings.

Key Insights

1. **Need for a Savior** - Recognizing our inability to save ourselves is crucial for genuine acceptance of God's grace. This awareness fosters humility and reliance on God's strength.

2. **Inward Focus of Sin** - Our sin nature is characterized by self-centeredness, which leads to choices that prioritize our desires over God's. Understanding this helps us confront our sinful tendencies.
3. **Lust of the Flesh** - While bodily desires are natural, they become sinful when placed above God's will. This insight encourages moderation and mindful living.
4. **Power of Choice** - Choosing voluntary servitude to God is essential for spiritual growth, highlighting our agency in the battle against sin. It's a conscious decision we must make daily.
5. **Transformation Through Grace** - Genuine acceptance of salvation leads to a change in desires, steering us toward righteousness rather than indulgence in sin. This transformation is pivotal for a fulfilling Christian life.
6. **Living in Submission** - The kingdom of God manifests through our submission to His will, reminding us that our daily actions reflect our true allegiance. This perspective brings clarity in decision-making.
7. **Promises and Power** - Embracing our identity as God's servants opens the door to experiencing His promises and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This assurance encourages perseverance in faith.