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F.R.E.E.

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F.R.E.E.

Last week, Pastor Gary brilliantly taught us that we are freed from 'need domination' when we are driven by 'purpose motivation.' Today, we are going to unpack that for us as parents—because you cannot lead your children / grandchildren / next generation into a freedom you have not yet walked in yourself.

Pastor Gary said something that wrecked me: We are either dominated by our needs, or we are motivated by our purpose. A parent dominated by needs makes decisions from panic—bad jobs, toxic relationships, financial shortcuts. A parent motivated by purpose makes decisions from peace—even when the bank account is thin.

Yesterday, I asked your teenagers to be '10 toes down' on their vision. But here is the hard truth: They cannot stay planted if your feet are shaking. They watch you. They see if you are free or if you are frantic. Today, we are going to get F.R.E.E. so our households can stand firm.

F – FACE YOUR FEAR - Need domination always starts with fear—fear of not having enough, fear of your kids failing, fear of getting old. You cannot be motivated by purpose if you are paralyzed by panic. Freedom starts when you look your fear in the face and call it a liar.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

That anxiety you feel at 3 AM? That isn't from God. That is need-domination knocking. God gave you power to overcome it.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NLT) *But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. ¹⁹ For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

Your past failures don't dictate your future. You are not 'stuck' in this financial or emotional desert. God is making a road right now, but you have to stop staring at the mess and choose to look up.

Galatians 5:1 (NLT) *So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*

Slavery isn't just chains; it's that job you hate but stay at because you're scared to step out in faith. It's that relationship you tolerate. Christ cut those ropes. Stop tying them back on.

R – RENOUNCE THE LIE - Need domination thrives on a lie: "You are what you lack." If you lack money, you are a failure. If you lack a degree, you are dumb. But purpose says: "I am who God says I am, regardless of what I have right now." You have to verbally reject the enemy's narrative over your household.

John 8:31-32 (NLT) *Jesus said to the people who believed in him, 'You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'*

The truth isn't 'I'm broke.' The truth is 'The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.' Renounce the lie of lack and speak the truth of provision.

Romans 6:17-18 (NLT) *Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. ¹⁸ Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.*

Sin isn't just crime—it's worry. It's comparison. It's idolizing a paycheck. You are free from that slavery. Renounce it out loud today.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

Parents, stop defining yourself by your old mistakes—the broken home, the bankruptcy, dropping out of school. That old person is dead. You are a new creation. Walk like it, so your kids can see it.

E – EMBRACE YOUR ASSIGNMENT - Pastor Gary said purpose motivation is the antidote. You were not put on this earth just to pay bills and die. You have a specific, God-ordained assignment right now—and it is bigger than your 9-to-5. When you embrace why you are here, the how (the money, the resources) starts chasing you instead of dominating you.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

You aren't an accident. Before you were born, God pre-wrote specific 'good things' for you to do. That is your purpose. Are you doing them? Or are you too busy surviving to live?

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) *For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

God's plan for your family isn't disaster. It is a future. But you have to stop settling for 'survival mode' and start walking toward that hope.

Acts 20:24 (NLT) *But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*

Your assignment isn't selfish—it serves others. When you are motivated by serving your family, your church, and your community, your 'needs' lose their power over you. You are too busy building to be worried.

E – EXAMPLES TO YOUR CHILDREN - This is the bridge to Saturday's youth conference. Your teenagers were told to be "10 toes down" on their vision. But they are watching you. Freedom is caught, not just taught. If you want your child to be committed to God, they need to see you committed. If you want them to count the cost, they need to see you making hard, wise cuts. You are the living sermon they see every day.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NLT) *And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.*

Faith isn't just for Sunday morning. It's for the car ride, the dinner table, and the arguments. Your kids learn freedom when they hear you pray through a crisis instead of cuss about a crisis.

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT) *Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.*

'Direct' means you have to be on the path first. You can't point them to a destination you aren't walking toward. Your purpose motivation lights the path for them.

Psalms 78:4-7 (NLT) *We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.*

Tell them your testimony! Tell them how God freed you from that debt, that depression, that addiction. When they hear your story of freedom, they gain confidence that God can free them too.

The F.R.E.E. Acronym:

F – Face your Fear (God didn't give you panic; He gave you power).

R – Renounce the Lie (You are not what you lack; you are a new creation).

E – Embrace your Assignment (Purpose drives out the panic of survival).

E – Exemplify to your Children (They are watching; give them a legacy of freedom).

Parents, I need you to hear me. Your teenager was asked yesterday: 'What is one thing you need to say no to, so you can say yes to your future?' I am asking you the same question today. What job, what habit, what grudge, what fear is dominating you right now?

The enemy wants you to believe you are too old to change, too broke to give, or too tired to lead. That is a lie from the pit of hell. Christ set you free—not to be a stressed-out survivor, but to be a purposeful pioneer for your family.