

RELEASE ME

PASTOR ANTHONY WALKER
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INTRO:

In the world of farming in this decade we utilize state of the art farm equipment to teal the land, turn soil, or plow the field in order to plant a harvest. In the older days they used a beast of an animal called the ox. Oxen were used for plowing, pulling carts, hauling wagons, trampling grain, and for powering machines used to grind grain. *An ox was considered a beast because it was able to exercise strenuous work while carrying a burden, which is why this animal is also known as a "Beast of Burden".*

Now when an OX was used to plow the field it would be YOKED. A yoke is a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to a plow or cart that they are to pull. A yoke links, enjoins, or locks two things in place, so that one cannot move without the other. The yoke forces the animals to move in tandem.

Note: *One result of "yoking" animals together is that their combined strength is multiplied. When an animal is Yoked they are fastened and under submission of the control and command of the yoke.*

They then follow Verbal commands such as:

Back: back up

Gee: turn to the right

Get up (also giddyup or giddyap, contractions for "get thee up"): go

Haw: turn to the left

Whoa: stop

Since oxen grew to be such huge animals farmers would yoke them in their youth so that when they grew older they'd submit to the yoke willingly.

MAIN SERMON SLIDE

Now for one to be released into freedom it is important to understand that:

POINT #1: Freedom begins with obedience:

The Latin root of the word "obedience" means "listen." So, to obey is to listen. And true freedom in Christ is obedience.

SLIDE: Deuteronomy 28:1-2(NLT)

"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world.

2 You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:

SLIDE: Deuteronomy 28:3-6(NLT)

3 Your towns and your fields will be blessed.

4 Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed.

5 Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed.

6 Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.

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In spite of God's promises we sometimes become entangled with yokes of the world that cause us to lose sight of God due to self-produced blockage, which hinders us from hearing God's voice.

James 1:22-24 (NIV)

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:25 (NIV)

25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

By human nature we do not like being told what to do. And if you were to be honest; we feel as though we know better for ourselves than anyone else. But to be in control of your life is to be out of control.

POINT #2: WALK in Spirit:

While we strive to walk in spirit we can find ourselves hindered by physical yokes (sickness, disease, or mental weakness), Mental yokes (depression, fear, & anxiety), and financial yokes (debt or poverty).

*****But you will find that the majority of yokes people become entangled with are those that are satisfying to their flesh.... These types of yokes may look like: sex, pornography, drugs, fortune, fame, selfishness, lying, or Deception.

To sum it up in one word - PLEASURE: At its basic level, pleasure has to do with fulfilling one's sensual desires. It's the same mindset that's behind the slogan: "If it feels good, do it."

Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

The spirit in us desires Holiness, but at times our flesh places that desire in a state of spiritual paralysis.

Walking in the spirit requires total submission and allows for the spirit of our God to be released in us. If we fail to walk in spirit bondage becomes the end result because bondage is the end result of negative strongholds in our mind.

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Romans 8:14-16 NIV

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **15** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:17 NIV

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. **(We must recognize this because...)** We can become enslaved to particular lifestyles through addictions, cravings, and inordinate desires. This established mindset is produced by practiced actions that turn into habitual behaviors.

*****ALLOW ME TO MAKE IT PLAIN

- See the world says if I can get this young girl to think acceptance is being promiscuous.
- If I can get the young man clicking on the computer screen once more
- If I can get them to sip the drink once more – **I'VE GOT THEM!**

NOW REMEMBER WHAT I SHARED BEFORE:

When an animal is Yoked they are fastened and under submission of the control and command of the yoke.

I ALSO SHARED

Since the oxen grew to be such large animals farmers would yoke them in their youth so that when they grew older they'd submit to the yoke willingly. While you're young in age or Christ, the world tries to give you a yoke wrapped in fads and fun that will control you not only in your present, but holds the potential to enslave you in your future.

BUT HERE COMES DELIVERANCE

Isaiah 10:27 KJV

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, **AND THE YOKE SHALL BE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE ANOINTING.**

Notice the yoke (problem or stronghold that is keeping you from breaking through) shall be **DESTROYED**. It didn't say the yoke would be broken because anything that is broken can be put back together, but **DESTROYED**.

Secondly notice it is because of the **ANOINTING**. The anointing we receive flows out of the anointing of Christ. And the anointing is God's favor, His presence, & His power over our lives. The more you walk in spirit tapping into the Holy Spirit, the more access you have to God's anointing. In-other-words it fills you up.

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Some of us have been praying for something's and some have been laying in something's, but can I talk to somebody who's seeing things! Can you see beyond the yoke that was once holding you captive... See your faith **ACTIVATES THE ANOINTING OF CHRIST** over your life. And once the anointing hits you, you become too FAT for any yoke of the world to hold you.

Jesus paid the price for our freedom and wants to give us life in abundance. Now that includes shattering the strongholds, yokes, and bondages that hold us captive.

GALATIANS 5:1(KJV)

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Everyone is striving for something. And prayerfully everyday we are all striving to be more like Christ. We want to be better people, a better wife or husband, a better parent, better son or daughter, and a better disciple for Christ.

But in order to achieve greatness you have to be connected with greatness.

IN OTHER WORDS WE SHOULD BE YOKED WITH CHRIST:

This means living a life of faith, working in tandem with Christ for the love of God.

I stated earlier, the one result of yoking things together is their combined strength is multiplied.... Well imagine the power you possess when you're yoked with Christ!!

SLIDE: Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)

28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

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