



Dear Sisters in Christ,

July is the month when we reflect on and celebrate living in a free country. Our freedom has come at the cost of thousands of men and women making the ultimate sacrifice to keep us free and God shedding his grace on our land. We could refer to this as our "External freedom".

Let's take this opportunity to reflect on our "Internal freedom." "Internal freedom" can be described as "Freedom from the bondage of Satan's deceptions." One of his deceptions is confusing us as to who we are. Jesus tells us that we are His daughters, a treasured possession, highly valued. Real freedom comes from knowing that your true identity comes from God. Real freedom comes from knowing your true identity is anchored to the truth of who God is and who he is to you. Real freedom is ceasing your quest to find your identity in others. Real freedom is knowing that when your identity is tied to circumstances, you become insecure because circumstances are unpredictable and ever changing. Real freedom is not basing your identity on your feelings because feelings are fragile props. Real freedom is realizing the more intimate you are with God, the more you will understand what your true identity is. Real freedom is embracing the truth of Zephaniah 3:17:

*"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."*

Ladies, as you trust in Jesus moment by moment, he delights in you and gives you His life-changing mercy, grace and new found freedom. We pray that the truth of this "Real internal freedom" would be yours as you become more intimate with God through daily prayer and Bible reading. Jesus loves you so much! He is waiting for you to spend time with Him. We encourage you to meditate on Ephesians 3:14-19.

On behalf of your "Sisters in Christ" HBC Women's Ministry Team,  
Living loved,  
Dianne Shaw

