

# Welcome to Freedom



We are so happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope you feel God's presence and the love of His people in this place.

If you are a first-time guest, ***please fill out a card in the pocket in front of you*** and don't forget to pick up your **FREE GIFT** at the Visitor's Desk on your way out. We hope you will join us for more experiences at FREEDOM!

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## Small Groups Resume

**THIS WEEK!**

We look forward to seeing all of our small groups at their regular meeting times starting this week (January 12th)! Small Groups are a main part of the foundation of Freedom Church, providing a great opportunity for studying the bible and connecting with others. **If you are interested in joining a group, it's not too late!** Please reach out to our ministry assistant, Joanna, at the Welcome Desk, or you can send an email to [joanna@myfreedomchurch.net](mailto:joanna@myfreedomchurch.net).

## Celebrate Recovery

**Thursdays at 6:15 pm**

At Freedom Church International, we believe that everyone is recovering from something. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery ministry for anyone struggling with hurts, habits or addictions of any kind. It is a safe place to find community, encouragement and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life or the life of someone you love. Join us on Thursday nights from 6:15-8:30 pm in the Grace Room. Dinner and childcare are provided.

## Bible Reading Plan

**Available Now!**

Few habits have the power to change us as much as reading the Bible daily. As we start the new year, why not join us in our church-wide daily Bible reading plan which will take us, one chapter per day, through the entire New Testament and parts of the Old Testament? You can pick up your copies of the 2025 Bible Reading Plan on the foyer table.

# CHANGE IS A GOOD THING!

## Giving Options

With all the growth happening at Freedom, our online giving options have changed. If you have been placing your tithe with EFT+® or PayPal®, please be aware that these options are no longer available. We encourage you to stop any automatically recurring donations with these providers and **setup a new account with Church Center**, either in the app or on our website. If you have questions, please see Joanna at the Welcome Desk or send an email to [joanna@myfreedomchurch.net](mailto:joanna@myfreedomchurch.net).

## There's an App for Freedom!

- stay informed of events with the **calendar**
- schedule a **tithe** or make a one-time offering
- share a **prayer** request
- chat with members and leaders in your **group**
- **contact** staff and ask questions
- follow along with the **Bible Reading Plan**
- link to **sermons**




Scan the QR code  
to download


## Service In God's Name

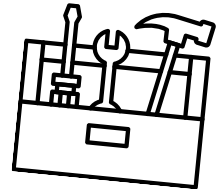
Use your talents to help others.

Help meet practical needs for widows and families who lack a husband or father. Use the talents, time, and treasures God has given you to complete small home repair projects, perform auto maintenance, and more .

If you would like to serve (or need help), please contact Bob Shotlander at:

 [shotsy80@hotmail.com](mailto:shotsy80@hotmail.com)

 (251) 367-3166.



## TODAY

Core Team & Small Group  
Leaders Meeting (3:30)

Small Groups Resume

Jan. 26th

Communion (10:00)

Jan. 27th - Feb. 3rd

Nigeria Mission Trip

**WHERE JOY BEGINS**  
**Red Letter Living – Part 1**  
**Matthew 5:1-4**  
*January 12, 2025*

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”*  
– Matt. 5:3-4 NIV

“Blessed” (makarios) = filled with joy, contentment,  
peace and fulfillment

“Poor” (ptochos) = absolute and abject poverty

➤ **We can only do God’s will when we realize our own utter helplessness, ignorance, and inability to cope with life and put our trust in God.**

Step 1 of CR: We admitted we were *powerless* over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become *unmanageable*.

“Mourn” = sorrow which brings unrestrainable tears to the eyes; to mourn as one mourns for the dead

- **The first word of Jesus’ ministry was “Repent.”**
- **No person can repent without being sorry for his sins.**
- **The Cross is what best opens our eyes to what sin is and does.**
- **Christianity begins with a sense of sin.**

- **Blessed is the person who is intensely sorry for his sins and is brokenhearted for what his sins have done to himself, to others and to Jesus.**

*Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning.* – Psalm 30:5 NLT

- **Conviction brings repentance and abiding joy while guilt brings abiding shame.**

*“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”* – Acts 3:19 NIV

*Now I am happy, not because you were made sad, but because your sorrow made you change your lives. You became sad in the way God wanted you to, so you were not hurt by us in any way. The kind of sorrow God wants makes people change their hearts and lives. This leads to salvation, and you cannot be sorry for that. But the kind of sorrow the world has brings death. See what this godly sorrow—the sorrow God wanted you to have—has done to you: It has made you very serious. It made you want to restore yourselves. It made you angry and afraid. It made you want to see me. It made you care. It made you want to do the right thing. In every way you have regained your innocence.* – 2 Cor. 7:9-11 NCV

- **Poverty of spirit and mourning over sin usher in great joy as we experience forgiveness, grace and the power to live differently.**
- **Story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14**



# FREEDOM CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

*Loving God. Loving People. Serving the World.*

**Website**

www.MyFreedomChurch.net

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info@myfreedomchurch.net

**Social Media**

🌐 @myfreedomchurch  
📧 @myfreedomchurch1  
📺 @FreedomChurchInternational

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(251) 257-0140

**Address**

Fairhope, Alabama

**FAIRHOPE STAFF**

Pastor..... Mark Price  
Worship and Young Adult Pastor.....Faith Chatten  
Associate Pastor.....John Beck  
Student Pastors..... Stone and Caroline Keener  
Children’s Pastor.....Lyn Davison  
Preschool Pastor..... Sabrina Ankerson  
Recovery Pastors..... John and Salley Beck  
Media Director.....Dave Wilson  
Sound Engineer.....Nick Wilson  
Ministry Assistant.....Joanna Sides

**NIGERIA STAFF**

Nigeria Campus Overseer.....Apostle Isaiah Kadiri  
Sapele Campus.....Pastors Ezekiel & Favour  
Lagos 1 Campus.....Pastors Alex & Favour  
Lagos 2 Campus.....Pastors Francis & Perfect  
Idah 1 Campus.....Pastors Joseph, Joel, and Simon  
Idah 2 Campus.....Pastors Phillip and Attah

**ELDERS**

John Beck  
Nancy Emmons  
Chris Perry

Mark Price  
Wayne Smith

**TRUSTEES**

Mike Sappington (Treasurer)  
Tony Maniscalco  
Rick Miller

Randy Parkison  
Ken Quattlebaum