

# FANNING THE FLAMES



## SET FREE IN CHRIST by Sarah Leonard Rackley

**T**his week, we sat on our front porch in the country and watched our neighbors shoot fireworks. The air was hot, the frogs and crickets were chirping, and the sound of fireworks going off all around us was beautiful to us. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is American Independence Day where we celebrate the freedoms and privileges that we benefit from in America. Even with the opportunities we have in this country, there are still millions here who are bound up in slavery – to sin! It is for freedom that Christ has set us free! (Galatians 5:1).

Before Christ, we were tied up in bondage to

sin. We were enslaved to keep all the law of Moses which was a strict taskmaster that told us, “Do this, but don’t do that.” There are Christians today who are still trying to earn God’s favor by doing everything right, but we don’t have to! We can come **BOLDLY** before the throne of Grace. (Hebr 4:16) Sin enslaves: it creates bondage by addictions, trauma, disease, and poverty. Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.” (Luke 4:18-19)

## ANXIOUS? GET PEACE WITH GOD.

*The Bible says that you can have **real peace in your heart**—the kind that is lasting! It’s only through Jesus. Our own **sin is what separates us from God**. But God, who is full of mercy, sent His son Jesus to earth to die to take the penalty for our sins. We can be **forgiven & cleansed**, just do what the bible says in Romans 10:9 “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Don’t wait, do it today! Then let us know so we can celebrate with you!*

## CONTACT US

**PREACHING THE GOSPEL ALL OVER THE WORLD, WE SEE  
MIRACLES AND HEALING EVERYWHERE WE GO!**

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...Cont'd from Page 1

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When we proclaim Jesus is Lord, we are proclaiming FREEDOM! You don't have to be a slave anymore! If you are still trapped, you don't have to be! Jesus came to bring freedom to you. Jesus didn't just barely win our freedom, sliding into victory at the last second... He DESTROYED the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) and entirely stripped him of his power (Cols 2:15).

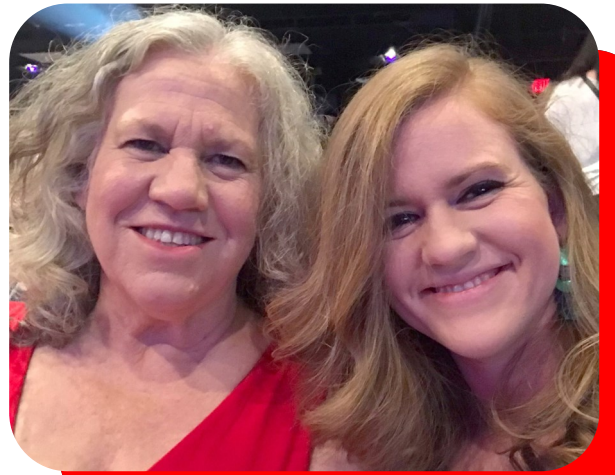
This freedom that He bought for us will cost us everything. If we are to follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross. (Matt 16:24) Don't be discouraged that this freedom requires something of us; it will be the lightest cross you've ever carried. Jesus said His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. (Matt 11:30) Don't let the devil add condemnation, shame, addictions, or regret to your cross! Remind him of his **defeat**. You are **free**, and that freedom makes the following-after-Jesus cross that you carry feel as light as a feather.

## FREEDOM

BY MARY LEONARD

I heard an illustration on a recent broadcast by Dutch Sheets. He used the image of a dinghy boat being rowed. In order to row a dinghy the rower must sit with his back to the direction that he wants to go. The person must look back where he came from to reach the place that he wants to go. That made me think about how much our history affects our future. I thought about how General Washington's troops were barefooted and starving in the winter willing to pay that price for our country.

Thank God for our freedom that was not free!



## MINISTRY ITINERARY

### Every Sunday

Healing Spring Bible Study

“Authority in Three Worlds”

Every Sunday 6:00 PM—8:00 PM

@ RLM Headquarters Aka Mary's House

313 Covington Road

### Monthly

Becoming the Victorious Church

Podcast with Mary Leonard

Link on our website [www.rickyleonard.net](http://www.rickyleonard.net)

### July 10

Faith Life Fellowship

Sarah Leonard Rackley Speaking

10:30 AM @ 725 Wellington Ave

Wilmington, NC