

9th Grade Devotional 2



You slide into the driver's seat and close the car door. The key is inserted and with a simple twist of the wrist, the power of 150 horses awaits your command. You now sit in a 4,000 pound missile capable of traveling at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. As you pull out of your driveway, you enter a world filled with other speeding missiles, guided by people with a variety of experience, focus, and attentiveness. Overcome by the exhilaration of this adventure, you are oblivious to the dangers that lie ahead. The intoxication of freedom overshadows the fact that you are, quite possibly for the first time, in a situation where you will have to make split second, life and death decisions... alone.

The principles of independence and freedom are important elements of every life. For that reason, it is imperative to have a clear understanding of what that means and how it affects your life and the lives of those around you.

One definition of **freedom** is - "The power to determine action without restraint." This is, undoubtedly, the functioning definition of many teenagers. Unfortunately, many adults seem to hold to this understanding as well. However, taken to its logical conclusion, this kind of freedom results in chaos and mayhem. Take any group of people and allow everyone to determine their own actions, without any restraint, and someone is going to get hurt!

Freedom carries with it the burden of responsibility.

Galatians 5:13

For you, brothers, were called for freedom. Only don't use your freedom for gain to the flesh, but through love, be servants to one another.

A definition for **responsible** is - "Having a capacity for moral decisions and therefore accountable; capable of rational thought or action."

Throughout scripture we are reminded that, while our relationship with God affords us freedom from bondage it also obligates us to the high calling of "loving our neighbor as ourselves" and always considering the effect that our decisions and actions have on others. So please, as you seek and accept more and more freedom over the next few years, always remember that it comes with a cost.

Freedom is always balanced with responsibility and obligation to others.

Parents:

Talk with your student about the responsibilities that come with many of the new freedoms they are experiencing. Pray with them that the Holy Spirit will give them discernment as they begin to make more decisions on their own.