

COGA NEWS



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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FREEDOM IS FOUND IN DISCIPLINE

Bishop Cecil Reid

(Joshua 1:8) This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Many people think freedom means doing whatever they want, whenever they want. But this is not freedom—it is fanciful indulgence.

It is **indulgence** because it merely satisfies fleeting whims, which seldom lead to true satisfaction. It is **fanciful** because—even with infinite wealth—the laws of time, space, and human existence simply do not permit us to have whatever we want, whenever we want.

If you wanted to be in California right now, no amount of money or resources could get you there instantly. Even with your own private Learjet parked at the door, you're still several

hours away. *(And if you're reading this in California, just substitute "North Carolina" for "California" in that example. Also, what are you doing in California, anyway?)*



True freedom is found in discipline.

Unfortunately, discipline is a word that has gotten a lot of bad press. Too often, it's been used by parents, teachers, pastors, and bosses who want us to toe the line to serve their own interests.

The word discipline comes from **disciple**—a devoted student and follower. If we view rules as tools—guidelines for achieving our goals—we can study and follow them with such dedication (*discipline*) that they ultimately grant us the freedom to live our dreams.

Rules, then, become not just the roadmap to our destination, but the road itself.

When we understand the rules of the road—which highway to take, where to turn, how to drive safely, and how to maintain a car with enough fuel—we are free to enjoy the journey. We can chat with friends, admire the scenery, listen to music, sing along, or even make phone calls. (Ah, isn't technology wonderful?)

This kind of enjoyment or freedom doesn't come from avoiding effort—it comes from embracing it.

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Just as a new driver eagerly learns the rules of the road to experience the joy of driving, we can approach the disciplines of life with the same anticipation. When we commit ourselves to growth, learning, and perseverance, we transform challenges into stepping stones rather than roadblocks.

Discipline is not a burden; it's a **gateway**. It's what turns dreams into reality, aspirations into achievements. When we dedicate ourselves to the right path, following God's wisdom and the principles that lead to success, we find not just progress but true fulfillment.

True freedom is not the absence of structure—it's the result of mastering it. When we align our efforts with our purpose, we don't just move toward our goals; we walk in the fullness of God's plan, with joy and confidence lighting the way.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)



In this, we find freedom. (Joshua 1:8)



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Southern District--
19th-21st> Spring Revival

APRIL

20th> Easter Sunday

JULY *Get Excited!*

2025 Annual Church Growth Conference
July 14th-18th

Find more information on www.cogainc.org



A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- March means it's almost spring... almost. Maybe. Eventually.
- Spring is coming... but March likes to take its sweet time.
- March is just winter's way of saying, "You thought I was gone? Cute."
- Time to turn the clocks forward... and lose the only hour of sleep we actually wanted.
- March: When my car is covered in frost in the morning and pollen by afternoon.
- March Madness: The weather, not just the basketball.
- What do you call a parade in March? A marching band, of course!

