



To be Truly Free

John 8:31-36 (NKJV)

³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."³³They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"³⁴Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Introduction

Our Bill of Rights (Article III of the Philippine Constitution) guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and freedom to petition the government for redress and many more.

But, are we truly free?

According to John Piper, "You are fully free when you have the desire, the ability, and the opportunity to do what will leave you with no regrets forever." He explains that if you lack just one of these, you are not truly free.

For example, you have a desire to earn money (freedom of desire) but do not know how to earn money, how are you free? Let's say you have a desire to earn money and know how to earn money (freedom of ability) but were prohibited by the government due to the pandemic, how are you free? Let's say you have a desire to earn money and know how to earn money and was given money to start a business (freedom

of opportunity) but in the process destroys you and your family, how are you free?

True freedom comes from knowing Christ through genuine faith and abiding in His word.

In John 8:30 - As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. So, verse 31 is a continuation message for those who believed. Many may conclude that these people had come to know Christ through faith (since they believed). But later verses reveal that these people were slaves to sin (v. 34), they also sought to kill Jesus (vv. 37,40); God was not their Father (v. 42) and they were children of the devil (v. 44); they were liars (v. 55).

These so called "believers" are like those in John 2:23, "Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did." They believed in Jesus after seeing some of His miracles, but Jesus didn't entrust Himself to them, because He knew that their faith was superficial. Also, it is said in John 6:66, "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."

False faith is implied in John 8:31, where Jesus said that if they continue (abide) in His word, they are truly His disciples. It means that false believers can claim to believe in Jesus but still fail to continue in His word.

On the contrary, Peter said in John 6:68-69, ⁶⁸But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the

living God."

So, we should conclude that it's possible to have superficial (false) faith in Christ that does not save from sin.

Luke 8:5-15 (The Parable of the Sower) also mentioned the seeds that were sown on the rocky, thin soil. These people received the word with joy, but they had no root. They believed for a while, but in a time of temptation or trial, they fell away. The same was true of the seeds sown among the thorny ground. Eventually, the thorns choked out the word, so that it did not bear fruit.

How can we know that our faith is genuine?

I. False Faith

a. They do not recognize their own slavery to sin (v.34).

Mark 7:6-7

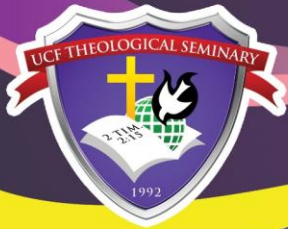
⁶He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

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Rev. Dr. James C. Sy
Administrative Pastor





UCF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FEATURE

EQUIPPING THE SERVANTS OF GOD

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, NKJV)

As it is written in the Bible, the Lord mandated His disciples of the Great Commission—to go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:15). And as a church, the Lord established the UCF Theological Seminary (UCFTS) which will prepare their hearts and minds for the preaching of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

As children of God, it is our responsibility to follow the principles of God's Word and apply it in our daily lives. With the purpose and vision from the Lord, UCFTS trains and equips its students to become effective workers and missionaries who will bring more souls to the feet of God. This coming October, UCFTS is set to open its doors for workers who desire to be trained and honed to bring glory to the Lord.

Indeed, it is a privilege to be trained and to serve the Lord. Let us continue serving the Lord and obeying His commands in our lives!

BEGINNING OF UCFTS

Rev. Dr. William Sy established the Bible Training Center in 1993 with the purpose of training workers to serve God.



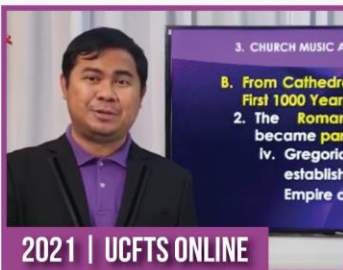
1993 | FIRST BATCH OF SEMINARIANS



2009 | UCFTS GRADUATES



2015 | DIPLOMA AND BACHELOR GRADUATES



2021 | UCFTS ONLINE



It was 2009 when the Bible school was officially named as UCF Theological Seminary. As the church grew in number, more children of God desired to be equipped as workers for the ministries of God.



2019 | UCFTS CLASS

Amidst trials and challenges like the pandemic, the Lord provided ways for the ministry to continue on.

WHY ENROLL IN UCFTS?

In accordance with the UCF vision, it is the dream of the church to send career missionaries and church workers around the world to preach the Gospel. The UCFTS is **a great opportunity for the workers to be trained and equipped**—anchored with the principles of God found in the Bible and guided with God's wisdom. It is for the preparation of reaching out to the lost souls and preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people.

ENROLLMENT IS ONGOING!

For the enrollment details, please coordinate with Mrs. Joan Sy.



2022 | BACHELOR GRADUATES

Joshua 1:7
(NKJV)

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.



UCACOA FEATURE

PATHWAY TO A CAREER SUCCESS

For the past abundant years, UCA College of Asia (UCACOA) has served as a valuable gateway for individuals striving to secure a better future. In partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the school offers a variety of free training programs designed to equip people with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue their chosen career paths. These programs not only provide theoretical knowledge but also emphasize hands-on training and real-world job exposure.

Some of the programs they offer include Contact Center Services NC II, which has trained 910 scholars and continues to provide instruction to this day, and Bookkeeping NC III, with 175 scholars having successfully completed the program. Upon completion of the training, scholars may also receive a National

Certificate if they pass the TESDA competency assessment, giving them a formal qualification that is recognized nationwide.

With just a few days of training, UCACOA is committed to empowering Filipinos with high-demand job skills, allowing them to pursue better and brighter career opportunities. These programs truly serve as avenues to produce job-ready individuals, equipped with valuable knowledge and practical experience.

Here are some testimonials from scholars who underwent these free training programs, highlighting what they learned and how UCACOA helped them access their future.



MARY NICOLE CLEMENTE
CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II SCHOLAR

"I am truly blessed and grateful to be one of the beneficiaries of the UCA College of Asia and TESDA for Contact Center System scholarship. **This opportunity has opened doors for me to learn new skills that not only uplift me personally but also enhance my professional growth as a teacher.** The training has strengthened my confidence, improved my adaptability, and broadened my perspective on how learning digital skills can empower individuals. Thank you, UCACOA and TESDA, for giving me this chance to grow."



ANDREA JAMENA
CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II SCHOLAR

"**Being one of the UCACOA and TESDA beneficiaries helped me gain new knowledge and understanding of what it's like to work in this specific field. And the fact that it's free, opens new opportunities to be trained and be ready for work, without the hassle of paying for the course. I'm very blessed to be part of this, and I can't wait for other courses to open.**"



ELYNA KARENE DOLOTINA
CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II SCHOLAR

"I am blessed to be one of the many beneficiaries of the TESDA CSS scholarship. **The accessible learning facilitated by UCACOA has greatly helped us students continue to grow and learn, even within the comfort of our homes.** I am deeply grateful to UCACOA and to the sponsors for making this possible."



ASHLEY DEL ROSARIO
BOOKKEEPING NC III SCHOLAR

"I feel truly blessed and grateful to be chosen as a beneficiary of the TESDA Bookkeeping scholarship. This opportunity is very meaningful to me because it will greatly contribute to my future career. **One of the greatest benefits I have gained is that this course is directly aligned with my chosen profession. The program not only strengthened my knowledge and skills but also equipped me with valuable competencies that I can apply in both my personal and professional growth. It has enhanced my credentials, making me more competitive in the job market.**"



JOHN PHILIP TOLEDO
CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II SCHOLAR

"**I thank God for opening this opportunity.** Thank you to UCACOA for being the way to this opportunity. I'm truly grateful and blessed to receive this TESDA scholarship. **It's a great opportunity for me to learn new skills and improve my future prospects.**"



JILLIAN CASTILLO
CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II SCHOLAR

"**In just 28 days of training, I learned a lot about communication and customer service that can really help me.** The allowance also supported my daily needs during the training. UCACOA TESDA gave me confidence, skills, and hope for my future career."



JED MORFE
BOOKKEEPING NC III SCHOLAR

"I am blessed to have been certified as an NCIII Bookkeeper. **The certification gave me an advantage in my job application.**"



JEANETTE DE SAGUN
CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II SCHOLAR

"Opportunities like this don't come often, so I'm very grateful to have been given the chance to study at a good school like UCACOA. **It's been a meaningful experience for me—it helped me build skills that are valuable in today's workforce.**"

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19
(NKJV)



UCA ROBOTICS SESSION

EMPOWERING YOUNG INNOVATORS THROUGH ROBOTICS



In today's modern world, invention and innovation are both crucial areas that should be applied as time continuously evolves, especially in response to workforce demands in the industry.

As part of this development, United Christian Academy (UCA) held its first robotics session last September 3-5, Wednesday to Friday. The three-day session featured an information-packed introduction led by Ms. Raena Christine Tabay. The Grade 3 to 12

students gained new knowledge and explored the model robots. This is an amazing and insightful program for them as this will be additional skills they can acquire for their personal growth and future careers.

Praise the Lord for this another meaningful opportunity. Certainly, this year will be fruitful because the Lord's favor is continuously being experienced.



UCA UPDATE

UCA IS NOW SOLAR-POWERED

Through the provision of our Almighty God, United Christian Academy (UCA) now utilizes solar energy for its partial electricity.

In partnership with ELS Solar Innovation Incorporation, the solar panels was successfully installed on the UCA roof last week, harnessing the abundant sunshine to provide the school with sustainable and reliable energy source and reduced electricity bill. This is a wonderful achievement for the school as it will be beneficial for its day-to-day operation.

Praise the Lord for He is the source and provider of all the needs of the ministry!



2 Corinthians 9:8
(NKJV)

^a And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

PAKIKIISA SA GAWAIN NG DIYOS



Ang mga anak ng Diyos na nakaranas ng wagas na pag-ibig at nakarinig ng banal na tawag ng Panginoon sa kanilang mga buhay ay ang nagmamahal at nangangalaga sa mga ministryong ipinagkatiwala Niya sa panambahan.

Isa ang Mt. Tabor Church Re-Creation Center sa mga ministryong ginamit, ginagamit, at patuloy na gagamitin ng Panginoon para sa Kaniyang kaluwahatian. Ito ay magiging lugar ng mga gawaing magdadala sa mga nawawalang kaluluwa sa paanan ng Diyos. Kaya naman, anoman ang panahon at situwasyon, ang mga manggagawa at boluntaryo ng UCF ay patuloy na makikiisa upang mas maging kagamit-gamit pa ang lupaing ipinagkatiwala ng Diyos sa panambahan.

Tunay na ang ating Diyos ay tapat at mabuti, at Siya ang nakakakita ng ating pagpapagal at buong pusong pagsunod sa Kaniya.

KONSTRUKSIYON

Tulong-tulong ang kalalakihan sa paghuhukay ng lupa at paglilinis sa *Trail 4* sa Mt. Tabor. Ito ay upang mas maging malawak at malinis ang daan para sa mga bibisita dito.



Naging masinop at maingat ang bawat manggagawa at boluntaryo sa bawat gawain. Ang mga malalaking bato naman ay kanilang nilinis upang ihanda ang lugar para sa gagawing *parking lot*. Samantala, sinimulan din ang paghukay ng lupa sa itaas na bahagi ng Mt. Tabor bilang paghahanda para sa konstruksiyon ng UCA Mt. Tabor.



Kagalakan sa puso ng Kaniyang mga anak ang magamit ang kanilang kakayahan at kaalaman para sa kapakinabangan ng ministryong ng Diyos.

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.

Joshua 1:8
(NKJV)

To be Truly Free

>> from page 1

They were blind to their self-righteousness and spiritual pride. They may look clean outward but unclean inwardly.

Matthew 23:26, 28

²⁶Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁸Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

b. They trust in their own righteousness or religion (beliefs).

Matthew 3:8-9

⁸Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

These Jews were trusting in their religious heritage as descendants of Abraham to put them in right standing with God.

Doing religious rituals and activities cannot commend you to God. We need to bear fruit worthy of repentance.

II. Genuine Faith

vv. 31b-32

^{31b}"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The true sign of a genuine faith is to abide in Jesus' word. This is not

a condition to be saved but rather evidence that you are truly saved.

Joshua 1:7-8

⁷Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸This 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.

To abide means to dwell or to be at home. God commanded us to abide in His word not to merely visit it from time to time. If you meditate on His word day and night, it will govern and guide your mind, your attitudes, your speech, and your behavior. Let God's word become your influencer. The more you dwell on God's word, the more you will know Jesus Christ through genuine faith.

Those who do not abide in God's word cannot understand the things of the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:18-19

¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for

they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Knowing the truth liberates, but ignorance keeps people in bondage. Spiritual ignorance keeps a person from knowing the living and true God, and from being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

True freedom is not the absence of sin but the freedom not to sin. Jesus did not promise us a life without temptation and sufferings, but He said in John 6:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Galatians 5:13

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

The story of Joseph on how he resisted the advances of Potiphar's wife, Genesis 39:9 - There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Abiding in the Word sets us free from our former slavery to sin.

Conclusion

True freedom comes from knowing Christ through genuine faith and abiding in His word.

When you truly believe in Christ, He gives you the desire to please Him who lavished His grace upon you. He gives you the ability to obey Him as you walk in the Spirit who lives in you. He gives you opportunities daily to say no to sin and selfishness, and to serve others in love. And you will dwell with Jesus in heaven forever, with no regrets that you left your life of sin to follow Him.

If you're still a slave of sin, Jesus offers you true freedom:

John 8:36

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.



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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM (Parañaque)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
3:00 PM (Cabuyao, Laguna)

HOUSE OF PRAYER
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

HOME BIBLE CHURCH & STUDY
Monday - Thursday
Laguna and Cavite Areas

Scan these QR codes to watch the replays of the UCF Sunday Worship Services.



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