



Tuesday evening I was given a lesson on freedom and liberty. I took this photo about 3:00 as I was standing at Battery Park looking toward the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island. It was 55 degrees with a very strong cold wind blowing so hard I had to set on the ground to take the photo. The sun beams were streaming through the clouds causing Lady Liberty to be silhouetted as I look into the bright sky.

The sight caused me to think back to "The tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free" throughout our history who looked to this great symbol of liberty and freedom with dreams of a new life. What hope and anticipation this great monument must have given to those who fled lands of oppression and tyranny to begin their new life in the land of opportunity.

As I left the park I caught a cab to rush to the airport. Thinking back to that cab ride I count myself lucky to have been privileged to ride in this man's cab. The driver and I could not have been more different in appearance or background, yet I felt we had many things in common. The driver was conscientious and easy to talk to. Even though we had some communication problems, we both spoke our words with heavy accents (his from Nigeria and mine from Alabama).

He told me he has been driving a cab in New York City for 30 years. He spoke these words with obvious pride, telling me that this job has allowed him to put his two daughters and a son through college. His words were pronounced eloquently by the smile on his face and the moist spot in his eye.

This man was living out his freedom. He was not going out to find his life, he was creating his life. He is experiencing a perfect freedom doing the work he enjoys and making a living by that work. He preached a powerful sermon to me on that day with very few words and a very large smile.

Today, are you enjoying your freedom? Are you living out your freedom? Remember, we are free at the moment we wish to be. Are you free today? If not, what are you waiting on? Be Free!

Something to think about:

- ❖ Our destiny is not determined for us, but it is determined by us. Man's free will is part of God's sovereign plan. We have freedom to take which course we choose, but not freedom to determine the end of that choice. God makes clear what he desires, but we must choose the direction of our lives.
- ❖ What is freedom? Freedom is the right to choose: the right to create for oneself the alternatives of choice. Without the possibility of choice and the exercise of choice a man is not a man but a member, an instrument, a thing.
- ❖ Love is the only true freedom. It lets us cast off our false exteriors and be our real selves.
- ❖ All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.
- ❖ The sweetest freedom is an honest heart.

Yearning to breathe free
Rickey Moore