

PREFACE

Scottish freedom fighter William Wallace attempts to motivate his beleaguered and outnumbered troops to rally against their British oppressors in the blockbuster movie *Braveheart*. With war paint on his face, pacing back and forth on his spirited battle horse, the mighty warrior of freedom loudly and authoritatively declares:

Aye, fight, and you may die. Run, and you'll live. . . at least a while. And dying in your beds, many years from now, would you be willin' to trade all the days, from this day to that, for one chance, just one chance, to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take. . . our freedom?

I love that scene, which reminds me of the longing in each person's heart—the longing for freedom. Freedom is worth fighting for, and once you attain it, you do not want to lose it. That is what this book is about—finding freedom and protecting it.

Growing up in a rules-oriented, legalistic, fundamentalist church, I became discouraged with religion as a young person, believing that I could never live up to all the written and unwritten requirements and expectations. Abandoning religion entirely, I lived a reckless lifestyle, rebelling against God, my parents, my teachers, and all authority. I wanted to be free. However, I discovered that a self-centered life does not bring freedom, rather just another form of bondage. Over time, I learned there are two different ditches that rob people of joy—legalism or license, the law or the flesh. The enemy of my soul did not care which ditch I chose as long as he could steer me off the center pathway—the gospel pathway, the path to freedom.

In this book you will find daily devotional readings that will help you experience the type of true freedom Jesus promised when he said, “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). Whether you breeze straight through this book, or read it slowly, day by day, I hope and pray you will take the time to meditate on the concepts and apply them to your life. I trust this journey through the apostle Paul’s New Testament epistle to the Galatians will remind you the gospel of grace in Christ Jesus not only sets you free but keeps you free, as long as you determine to keep it the *main thing*.