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A Fifth Freedom
Romans 8:1-4
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The news has been pretty scary lately. The pending invasion of Iraq, kidnappings and killings of children, the woes of the economy, natural disasters around the world, and the list could go on. In America, our freedoms often seem to benefit the criminal or terrorist more than the law-abiding citizen. Our tax dollars are poured out in the billions to questionable efforts. As these events rained down, I ran across “The Four Freedoms” by Franklin D. Roosevelt, written during stormy days in the world during his presidency.

“In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

“The first is freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world.

“The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world.

“The third is freedom from want... - everywhere in the world.

“The fourth is freedom from fear... - anywhere in the world.”

These “Four Freedoms” exist in part for parts of the world. They are worth pursuing. There is, however, a Fifth Freedom, that affects us even more deeply as humans and as nations. We ought to make it the First Freedom. The Apostle Paul says: **“For the power of the life-giving Spirit - and this power is mine through Christ Jesus - has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death.”**

No nation or individual is exempt from the sins broadcast in the news each day. We all have a nature that, under the right conditions, can and will destroy us and one another. There is, however, a freedom from sin we can have and maintain each day. It rests on the sacrifice of God Himself and made real by His Holy Spirit. Freedom not to sin and the freedom from sin’s judgment are available to each today. All it costs us is a heartfelt prayer and a sincere decision. That is the Good News!