

“Freedom of Choice”

By: Jack Muellerleile

“**Freedom of Choice**”, in this writer’s humble opinion, is one of our greatest freedoms. And it is our FINAL FREEDOM. The problem is that folks just don’t use it nearly enough. Below is a piece written more than 20 years ago by Jack to his children which still sets forth accurately his thoughts on this subject.

YOUR FINAL FREEDOM IS THAT OF CHOICE

*Christine, Cindy, John David and Michael,
The words which follow are for you each.
For all your lives, I’ve been your father,
And during this time, I’ve come within reach
Of many a thing this world has to offer,
On some of which now, I’m going to preach.*

*Aloneness I’ve said, is something certain,
Feeling brotherless many years of my life,
It’s been my veil or my curtain.
Clearly now I see, this illusion brings strife,
Pain, vengeance and sorrow, often to my own wife.*

*Strength’s always been surely for me,
Something admired and important,
I was quick to advise you of its quality.
Not seeing separation for the bondage it is,
Blindly I stressed, your acceptance of this,
Not realizing how much, from others you’d miss.*

*I’ve loved you each deeply, not one over another.
Your health, happiness, learning and development
Have centered my adult life, like no other.
In spite of my obvious weaknesses, so kindly overlooked,
You’ve each become more, than I’ve ever hoped.
You gave me yourself, you gave me your best.
Give others the same, hold not back the rest.*

*How you think is important, and how
You demonstrate this even more so.
Teach others, my darlings, your goodness,
Your love, your positive outlook, as you go.*

*Your leadership ability, I've all along stressed.
Encouraging you to nurture and expand and
Share and experience it, as if on a quest,
Toward finding your potential, when leaving the nest.*

*And now I come more to the preaching part,
Like shopping, I guess, at a grocery mart,
Each shelf full of choices, things you might need
To remain, or to grow, from your own special seed
Into a person full of love, having no lack,
Sharing your goodness, your truth a known fact.*

*Among all characteristics, available to you,
I hope you'll include, the following few.
For these, my four precious people,
Will carry you higher, than the highest steeple,
And cause all you influence, to follow you where
The LIGHT and the SPIRIT, await of us there.*

*TRUST is the first which evolves from long stewing,
Following after some painful undoing.
Next, a period of calm sorting out.
And then relinquishment, the valueless you rout.
Now you'll begin, settling yourself down,
Giving up your turmoil, and resting all 'round.
Please note that from here, you'll not go alone.
MIGHTY COMPANIONS will call yours, their very own home.
The next stage is indeed, so very unsettling
For judgment's replaced by willingness, not meddling,
Each circumstance now vied, with curious discernment,
Since now you begin, on the path to achievement.
Your future's secure, for now you do know,
Acceptance and progress, as you become, and you grow.*

*HONESTY is something, only the trusting can afford,
Not just in what's said, but how consistently you chord,
Your thoughts and your acts in tune with your words.
Nothing about you, is in contradiction.
Behaving in certainty, you offer not fiction.
Peace of mind becomes yours, conflict fades away,
Choices are easy and sure, success here to stay.*

*TOLERANCE will enable you, to overlook and not judge,
The actions of others, though some do need a nudge,
But 'til all knowledge is yours, you can't truly know,
Why this, why that, why some come, others go.
Harm comes from judgment; it implies a lack of trust,
And surely now you do see, that trust is a must*

*GENTLENESS is a strength fully limitless
After his early hard years, my dad displayed this.
Admiring him so, his presence was bliss
To a boy called Jack, who seemed rarely to miss
The targets he aimed for, while still youthful and crisp.
Strong people are wholly gentle, their way is not loud,
They are giving and caring, they needn't act proud.*

*JOY is the inevitable result of gentleness.
Fear is now quite impossible, it can't interfere.
The gentle know joy, pain and suffering not near.
Joy goes with gentleness, as grief attends attack.
Open gentle hands are filled, they never know lack.
Sharing and aware He does lead, and stands at our back,
He goes before you, carrying the weight of your pack.
You've given Him all, that you no longer want,
You hold now His gifts, confusion doesn't taunt.*

*DEFENSELESSNESS is yours, when to be simple, you've learned.
Your dreams need no defense, when joy has been earned.
Defenses are but guardians, of one's mad illusions,
Having shed them learning trust, there's but one conclusion.
Danger will not exist, being replaced by full safety,
Peace and true joy, ease out uncertainty.*

*GENEROSITY also, rests ultimately on trust.
Its special meaning includes much more than just,
The "giving away" or "giving up" some would repeat,
Really means giving away in order to keep.
I know this opposes, the way this world thinks,
Keeping so much, carried me close to the brink.
I only now want, what I can give away,
Thus protecting all things for myself, now and every day.*

*PATIENCE belongs to those, who can afford to wait.
Certain of the outcome, not restless at the starting gate,
Of the future they are sure, only timing will vary.
Such confidence dissolves burdens, some still choose to carry.
Patience is natural, to all those who trust.
Without anxiety they stand, doubts gone from the crust
Of a mistake-free past, for mistakes are not truly understood,
Since at any point in time, they did the best that they could.*

*FAITHFULNESS comes slowly, is achieved by degree.
Remember, readiness to learn, is not soon mastery.
It generally begins, a small step at a time.
This problem solved, then that, each one handled fine.
Over the years, you surely will come to know,
All things are set right, some quick and some slow.
True faithfulness does not ever deviate.
Being consistent, it's honesty first-rate,
Being unswerving, it is full of trust.
Being based on fearlessness, gentleness is a must.
Being certain, it is also completely joyous.
And being confident, it is tolerant of all of us.*

*OPEN-MINDEDNESS is perhaps, the last you will choose,
Its relation to forgiveness, once acquired, you'll not lose.
Open-mindedness comes with lack of judgment, you see.
Judgment shuts others out, open-mindedness brings them to me.
And how are the open-minded, so able to forgive?
They've simply let go of blocking things, that don't really live.
Many things to them sparkle, were before, lifeless and dull.
Threat now is gone, in forgiveness, their lives are so full.*

*You may have observed, or even taken note,
Of wonderful things absent, from the above list of my hopes.
Terms like love, knowledge, sinlessness and perfection.
These I believe, are already under protection.
As our inheritance from God, they've been ours all along.
Recognizing Him in each other, we sing His bright song.
We begin then to remember, what we've known for all time,
That supporting others, is His purpose and mine.*

*So Michael, John David, Cindy and Christine,
There's always two choices, two voices in between.
Choose what you will, as forever I stay,
Your Dad now and always, forever your fan,
Who wants your acceptance, of his helping hand.*

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