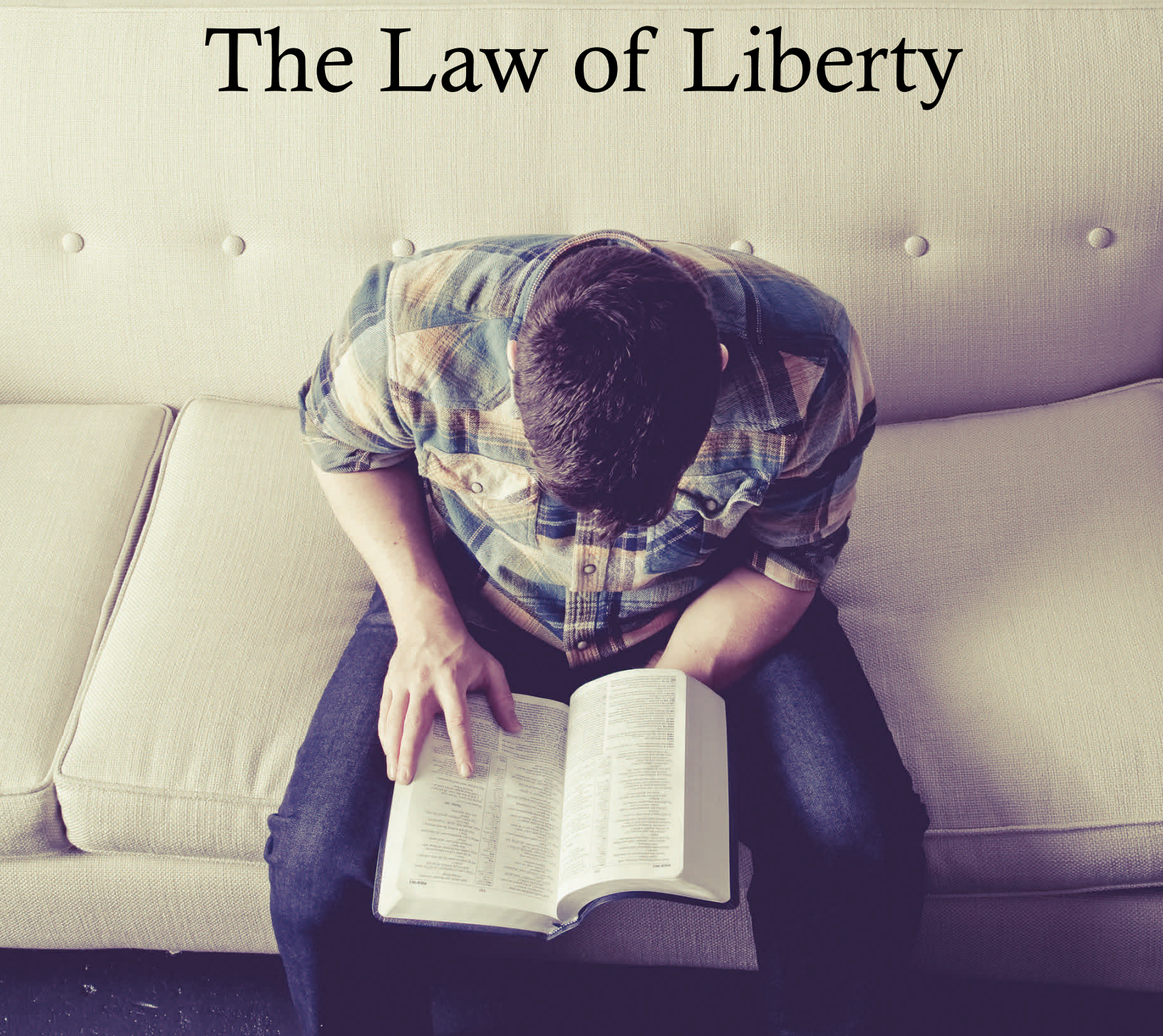


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The Law of Liberty



Features

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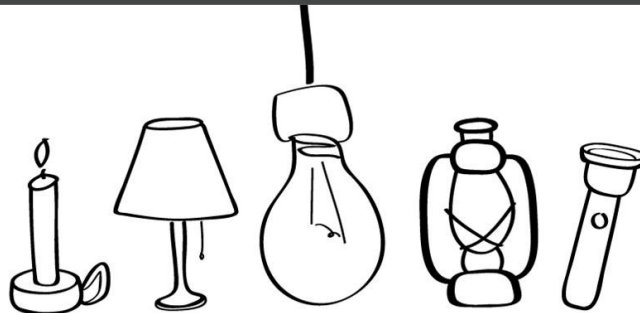
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The Law of Liberty

Law and liberty. In the American mind, the two seem to be in contrast with one another. Either you are on the side of law, which suggests rigid uniforms, or you are on the side of liberty, which brings to our minds rugged individualism.

God's Word uses the phrase "law of liberty" in James to describe how useful Scripture is in the lives of believers. It is the guiding truth for a child of God that empowered by God's Spirit walks in the freedom of Christ.

AFLC Youth Ministries approached three advanced youth ministry students to write on three connected descriptions in Scripture about God's Word. Enjoy reading through the eyes of these servant leaders about how important the Bible is to their lives!

God's Word As Guardian

by Jerica Braun

The idea that we have to be able to do a certain amount of good works to earn salvation has been around for a very long time. But one look at the Law shows how sinful we are. It convicts us that we have no power to perform a good deed perfectly and we have no holiness to offer to the Holy God. We are condemned when we look at the Law on its own.

Thankfully, there is the Gospel that shows that Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, did all the work to save us and His blood covers us when we believe in Him. Because of Christ alone, we are righteous in the presence of God. Another function of the Law, though, is that it is our guardian. In Galatians 3:23-24 it says, *"Now before faith came, we were held captive under the Law, imprisoned until the*

coming faith would be revealed. So then, the Law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."

The Law shows how we are supposed to live and gives us a picture of what God intended for this world before the Fall. It also reveals more of who God is. When we read or hear the Law, it does convict but it also teaches us and guides us on the path that we should be walking. This will never be perfectly done on this earth, but the Holy Spirit helps us in our journey and gives direction through the Word of God on how to live and gives us grace for each moment.

*Jerica is from Hanover, MN
and is a Senior at AFLBS*



The Law of Liberty

God's Word As A Mirror

by Ashley Wolterstorff

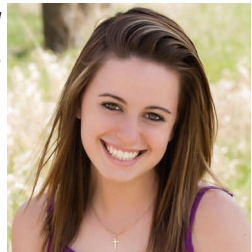
When I thought of God's Word as a mirror, I noticed these two things: it shows us who we truly are right there in that moment and it provides a perspective to help us change. When James writes about a man looking into a mirror then moments later forgetting what he looks like, I think of the many times I look at myself in the mirror, seeing my outfit or hair but not noticing the lettuce in my teeth or sauce on my cheek. It's not that I didn't look but that I was too *distracted to truly see*.

Jeremiah 5:21 says this, "...you foolish and senseless people who have eyes but do not

see..." The thing is that now that I do see the sauce, will I take the time and energy to clean my face or will I rub it in and try to ignore the stickiness? James writes in the next chapter that faith without works is useless and dead. What good is it to see the sauce and not wash it off?

God desires for us to see the perfect Law that frees us to be cleansed and transformed into new creations that live holy lives. God's Word shows us what needs to change, but we need to agree to take the time to wash our face.

*Ashley is from Osakis, MN
and is a Senior at AFLBS*



God's Word As A Map

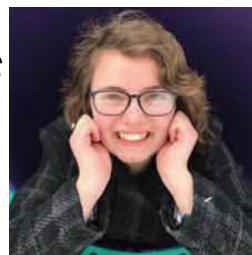
by Moriah Graham

Directions on a road or map were never my strong suit, but I didn't think I could get myself so lost. I was driving home for the weekend and as usual I turned on my GPS, found the shortest route, and off I went. I had just gotten into Iowa and must have missed my turn or turned when I wasn't supposed to, because I soon found myself in the country of some town I had never even heard of. In a moment of helplessness and panic, I called my brother bawling my eyes out. Come to find out I really wasn't that far off my route.

How often do we pick a direction to go and take off without thinking? Without making sure

that it is the way God is leading us? My own directions failed me that night, but God's directions never do. Psalm 119:30-32 talks about setting God's rules in front of us and running in the way of His commandments. God's rules are the laws He has given us and these act as a map. They direct us where to go according to His will. No one likes to be lost and afraid like I was. As we take time to look at and study God's Word, we will find that it tells us where to go. His map will always be in front of us.

*Moriah is from Calamus, IA
and is a Senior at AFLBS*





FLY CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT

By Heidi Nelson

Who is Jesus and what is the Word? What does it mean to know Him? Does knowing Jesus affect the rest of my life? How do I know what decisions Jesus wants me to make? What about the future? If I believe in Jesus, am I free to do whatever I want or do I have to obey Him? If you are a teen or know a teen looking for these answers and more, join us at Illuminate FLY 2017!

As we encounter Jesus at FLY, our minds and hearts will be illuminated by His Word. We will discover who He is and what it means to know Him through morning devotions and evening sessions. During morning elective studies, His Word will shed light on our response to specific hot topics in our world today. We will learn our mission in relating to others during the afternoon as we participate in sports, explore the arts, journey through the great outdoors, and fellowship at meals. Through prayer and debrief before bed, we will realize our hearts have been illuminated and that we've grown in our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, the light of the world. As we return home and share with friends and family, our hearts will be transformed and we will understand a little better how Jesus affects every part of our lives and how He's set us free to obey Him both now and in the future.

"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

—Romans 7:6; 8:1-2, 15

See you at FLY 2017!

Heidi is from
Golden Valley, MN
and is the
Devotional Life Secretary
for the
2017 FLY Committee



**MUSIC:** “Have Everything” by David Dunn

Reflecting on the tension in America that so many give only Sundays to the Lord, artist David Dunn calls himself (and believers in Jesus) to “Have Everything” about him. With other catchy songs like “Today Is Beautiful” and “I Wanna Go Back,” Dunn has struck a chord with a culture by pointing us to the

simplicity and complexity of following Jesus.

<http://www.air1.com/music/artists/david-dunn/bio.aspx>

**MOVIE:** “The Resurrection of Gavin Stone”

What happens when a former child star returns to his hometown in order to fulfill community service and ends up playing Jesus in a church production? Welcome to the plot for “The Resurrection of Gavin Stone”! The intriguing tension finds the actor “acting” like a believer before coming to face the crucial character that he plays. I am encouraged by

the generally healthy portrayal of those that do know Jesus within the congregational context as well as the redemptive tone.

<http://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/resurrection-of-gavin-stone>

AFLC Youth Ministries exists

to Win teenagers to Christ through the Gospel,
to Build them up in God’s truth and God’s love,
to Equip them to live their faith and share their faith
with others, which results in the multiplying of
maturing teen disciples of Jesus.



Rev. Jason Holt, National Youth Director

Mrs. Chris Rasmussen, Youth Ministries Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Daniel Keinanen, FLY Convention Coordinator

AFLC Youth Ministries, 3110 E Medicine Lake Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55441

www.aflc.org 763.545.5631