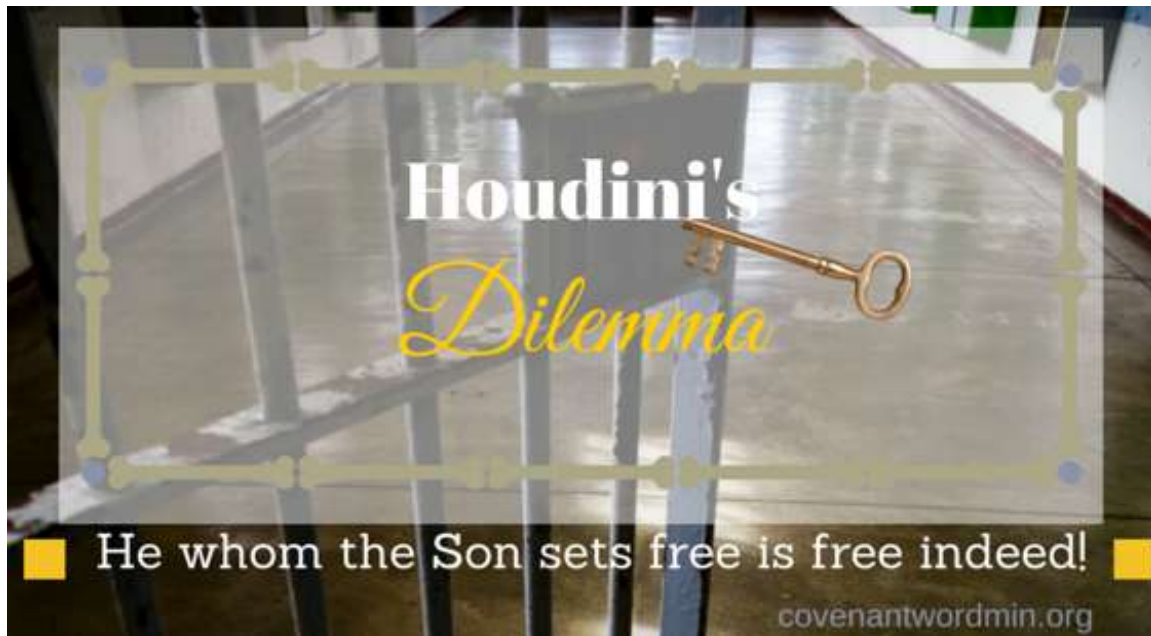




by: Dale G. Hudson

*Harry* Houdini (whose birth name was Ehrich Weiss) was perhaps the most influential magician of the twentieth century. He was a highly skilled magician who specialized in escapology (the skill of escaping from restraints or confinement as a form of entertainment). Houdini would escape from ropes, chains, handcuffs, etc., all while locked in a trunk, milk can or submerged in water. He literally would astound audiences by escaping with such speed that they would not know the exact moment he actually escaped.

It is said that on one particular occasion, Houdini was locked in a jail cell. He was left alone and given a certain amount of time to effect his escape. He tried everything he could think of, but to no avail. After some time and out of sheer frustration, Houdini hit the door of the jail cell; amazingly, the door swung open. What a great, hilarious surprise for the spectators and a bit of shock for Harry Houdini. It was discovered that in all the excitement, the jailer neglected to lock the cell door! Despite Houdini's striving and working so intently to unlock the already unlocked door, he failed to, even inadvertently, do so. The door just happened to open when he frustratingly gave up. Throughout the process, he did not realize he was always free to open the door and step through to the other side; in his mind, he was bound by the lock on the door. What a dilemma! Houdini learned the hard way that no matter how hard you try, it is impossible to unlock an already unlocked door.

Now, in what way are we acting like Harry Houdini? In what way are we diligently striving for what we already have? II Peter 1:2-4 states, "Grace (God's profuse, unmerited favor and ability) and peace (wholeness, soundness, preservation, prosperity, healing) is multiplied unto us through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power has given (past tense) unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the

knowledge of Him...." True faith in God boldly receives what God has ALREADY (FREELY) PROVIDED by grace.

The key to receiving what God has already provided is letting go of that old negative mindset, for the Scripture says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Then you must diligently renew your mind to the will of God as revealed in His Word. Jesus (the Word made flesh) has given unto us precious and magnificent promises that can only be attained by faith: insight from God (His Word), agreement with God (His Word), and obedience to God. Remember you must use the key of revelation to receive what is already FREELY yours through faith in God's Word! Then you can step out in that freedom, lay hold of what God has given you and stand firm in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you FREE.

*Shalom!*

