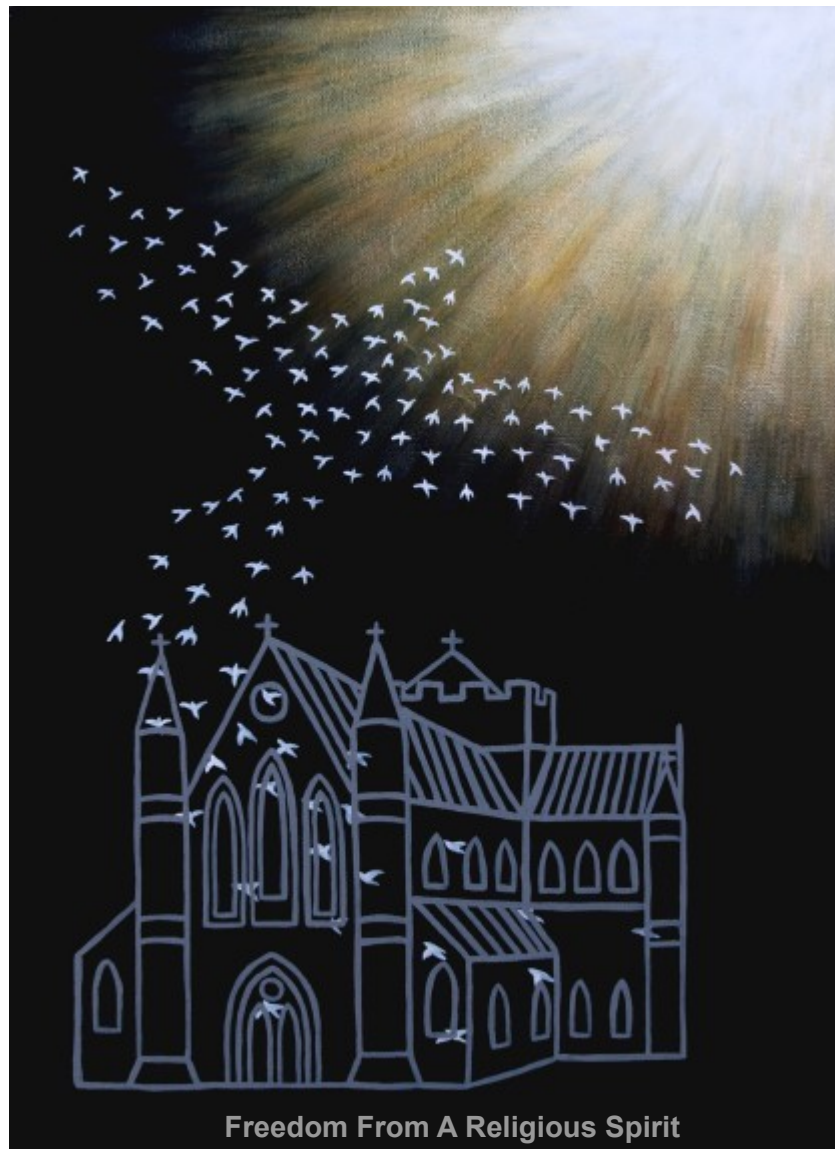


# Freedom from the Religious Spirit

I received the card below for my birthday this week. Have a look at it.<sup>1</sup>



*The text on the back cover is on the next page*

Here's the links to the artist's website, 'John The Baptist Artworks'.

- "Freedom From a Religious Spirit" (Card information): [LINK](http://jtbarts.com/gallery/john-the-baptist-artworks-series/freedom-from-a-religious-spirit) (jtbarts.com/gallery/john-the-baptist-artworks-series/freedom-from-a-religious-spirit)
- Order form (to buy greeting cards): [LINK](http://jtbarts.com/contact/purchasing-prints-andor-greeting-cards) [Ordering cards is near the bottom] (jtbarts.com/contact/purchasing-prints-andor-greeting-cards)

## Freedom From A Religious Spirit

"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17 NIV)

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1 NIV)

True Christianity is having a loving, personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Counterfeit Christianity is dead orthodoxy and an adherence to a form of godliness that has no power (2 Timothy 3:5). False Christianity is religiosity without relationship; true Christianity is relationship without religiosity.

God set us free through Jesus Christ so that we may live in the light of his presence and enjoy abundant, eternal spiritual life in his name. We are free as birds in Christ to live in the fullness of this new life God has provided for us (John 10:10). However, empty, dead religiosity--even if it be evangelical in name--is like a cage that can trap free birds away from experiencing the fullness of this life in Jesus. Nevertheless, we can only be trapped by what we freely choose to submit ourselves to. Religiosity can only cage us if we submit to being caged, for in Jesus we have already been set free! "...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36 NIV).

The birds in this picture symbolize Christians fleeing empty, dead "churchianity" and soaring up into God's presence. They have decided not to allow themselves to be caged by religion or man anymore. They want God more than the praises of men (John 12:42-43).



Rebecca Brogan  
www.jtbarts.com  
jtbarts@gmail.com  
+61 3 6249 3102

Laurence  
18-9-2016  
([www.CanberraForerunners.org](http://www.CanberraForerunners.org))

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