

Happy Independence Day!



What are some freedoms that we have?

An American flag waving against a blue sky with white clouds. The lyrics of the song 'God Bless America' are written in white cursive script over the flag.

*God bless
America,
my home
sweet home.*

IRVING BERLIN

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In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

DECLARATION,

By the REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
In GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled.

WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind require, that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes, and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present King of Great-Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid

World.

For protecting them by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States :

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the World :

For imposing Taxes on us without our consent :

For depriving us, in many Cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury :

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences :

For abolishing the free System of English Laws, in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies :

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments :

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited Domestic Insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on

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Anthony Minna, “What God has given to man is not enjoyed at the sufferance of any monarch or government. Liberty is the inviolable birthright of all.”

As long as freedom exists, there will always be those who will seek to destroy it.

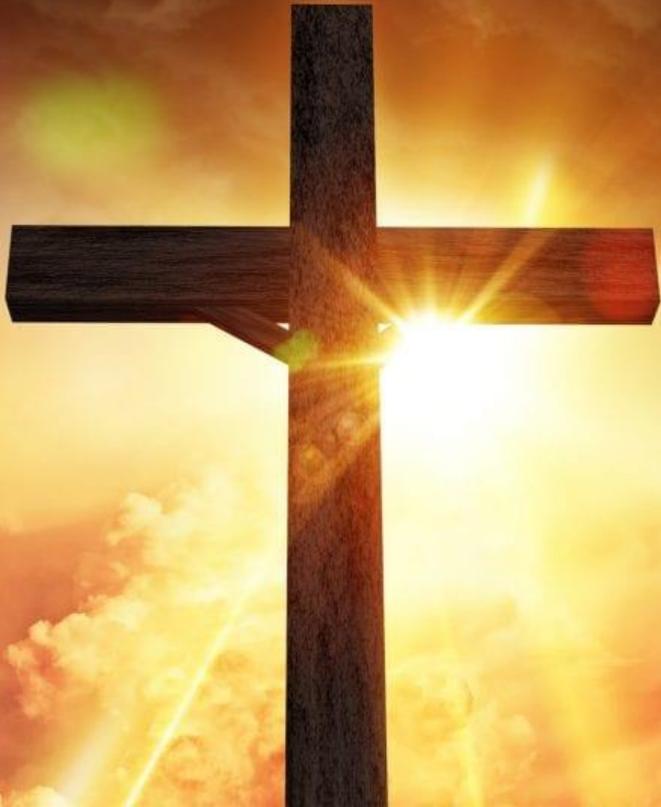
Our freedoms that were written by the
blood of Jesus and sealed with His
resurrection.



We were once slaves to this world.
2 Peter 2:19 “... for people are slaves to
whatever has mastered them.”



Jesus bought our freedom on the cross.
How long are we free?



FOREVER!

John 8:36 “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Romans 6:18 “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”

Romans 6:22 “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.”

Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

John 8:32 “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

Si Vis Pacem Para Bellum



The enemy wants your freedoms,
but he can't take them from you
because there is one higher than
he who gave them to you. He
wants you to surrender them to
him, and like a telemarketer he will
haunt you to get them.

1. Freedom From The Enemy.

-The enemy wants to lure back to himself, back into slavery.

-He wants you to believe that he has the power.

-He wants you to believe that things were so much better when he was in control of your life.

-He will tempt you through life to get you back.

1. Freedom From The Enemy.

-The devil is a liar. We don't belong to him, we belong to God, who is greater than the devil, and who never gave into the devil.

-1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

1. Freedom From The Enemy.

- Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, “All power is given unto Me in Heaven and on earth”.”
- James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the Devil and He will flee from you.”
- Remember who has the authority, it isn't him. So in Jesus's name cast him out and free yourself from him. He must obey.

2. Freedom From Sin

- The wages of sin is death.
- It is the enemy who brings us into temptation.
- After we come to Christ, we will still sin.
- We are in the process of sanctification.
- Conviction versus Guilt.
- The Holy spirit convicts us of our sin: 1.To show us what is wrong, 2.Teach us not to do it again.

2. Freedom From Sin

-It all comes to forgiveness, which we have been given through grace.

-1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

-Romans 6:14 “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”

2. Freedom From Sin

-Unforgiveness is born of hate, forgiveness is born of love. God is love and will forgive.

-Psalm 85:5 “You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call on you.”

-Psalm 32:1 “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”

2. Freedom From Sin

-Isaiah 43:25 “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

-Jeremiah 31:34 “And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the Lord”, for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.”

2. Freedom From Sin

-Micah 7:18-19 “Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us, He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

2. Freedom From Sin

-When the devil brings temptation, God brings a way out.

-1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

3. Freedom From Guilt/Shame

-Guilt is from the enemy. He is trying to drive you into despair, agony, and self-hatred.

-You don't think that you deserve to be forgiven and are having a hard time with that love.

-You think that that level of forgiveness cannot possibly exist.

3. Freedom From Guilt/Shame

-Isaiah 44:22 “I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”

Psalms 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

-God, who is higher than all, has forgiven you, so why can't you forgive yourself.

3. Freedom From Guilt/Shame

-Billy Graham “We can’t change the past, it may be too late to apologize to someone for our thoughtlessness. But we don’t need to carry around a burden of guilt over this. When Jesus died on the cross, He died for every sin you ever committed, including this one.”

-EVERY SIN.

3. Freedom From Guilt/Shame

-The enemy will try and get you to think that Jesus only died for one sin, and now you've lost your salvation.

-Sanctification PROCESS.

-John 10:28-30 "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one will snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

3. Freedom From Guilt/Shame

- God has a level of love, of mercy, of forgiveness that we can't understand.
- Don't put Him into a box because you can't understand it. Trust in Him and strive for that level of love, of mercy, of forgiveness.
- Take your guilt to Jesus' feet and leave it there.

4. Freedom From Anger/Unforgiveness

-Anger is a natural reaction to something that happens or something that someone says or does.

-The enemy wants you to hold onto your anger so that he can have a foothold into you, and turn it into resentment and bitterness.

-After all, the world tells you that you are justified in it. Riot anyone?

4. Freedom From Anger/Unforgiveness

-Ephesians 4:26 “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”

-Love should rule in our hearts and not anger, and we know that the Father has forgiven us, we need to forgive others.

-Colossians 3:13 “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

4. Freedom From Anger/Unforgiveness

-Matthew 18:21-22 “Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Til seven times?” Jesus saith unto him, “I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but seventy times seven”.”

-Luke 6:37 “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.”

4. Freedom From Anger/Unforgiveness

-Matthew 6:14-15 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

-Ephesians 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

-It is really hard, but forgive. When the devil comes back to reignite that anger, remind him there is nothing there to be angry about.

4. Freedom From Anger/Unforgiveness

-Mark 11:25 “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

-Proverbs 17:9 “Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.”

-Romans 13:8 “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.”

5. Freedom From Death

- As Christians we do not welcome death, but we don't fear it.
- We know where we are going-we get to spend eternity in love with God.
- We know from the resurrection that this will happen.
- The world fears death because it knows where it is going.

5. Freedom From Death

-John 14:1-4 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in Me as well. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5. Freedom From Death

-2 Corinthians 5:1 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

-2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

5. Freedom From Death

-1 Peter 1:3 “Praise be to the God and God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

-Romans 6:3-4 “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

5. Freedom From Death

-The enemy will try and throw doubt into where you're going, that there isn't any possible way that you're getting into heaven and that you should just enjoy life while you can.

-That is true for him, but not us.

-Remind him where you're going, where he's going, and cast him out.

6. Freedom From Fear

- What if? What if? WHAT IF??????
- Unrighteous fear is a lack of trust in the Lord.
- The enemy wants to break that trust you have in God and drive you away from Him.
- Trust in the Lord, put one foot out, and take that step of faith, then continue walking.
- We have not been given a spirit of fear.

6. Freedom From Fear

-Psalm 118:6 “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear; what can man do unto me?”

-Psalm 56:4 “In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?”

-Matthew 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

6. Freedom From Fear

-Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

6. Freedom From Fear

- Two examples: 1.Moses, 2.Jehoshaphat
- John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”
- 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and of a sound mind.”

7. Freedom From Burdens/Worries

- How will I? What will I?
- We ALL go through trials.
- We don't have to go through them alone.
- The Lord is there to ease our trials and to help bear our burdens.
- We also have been given one another to help each other through these times.

7. Freedom From Burdens/Worries

-Matthew 11:29-30 “Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

-Galatians 6:2 “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Freedom is not getting everything that you want. Like we say in this country, “Freedom isn’t free. It was bought by the blood of the soldiers who have fought and died for it”. The same is true of our freedom, Jesus blood bought it and it was sealed in His resurrection.

The freedoms given by man can be taken away, but the freedoms of God cannot be taken away.