

Next Generation

SALT & LIGHT

ONLINE

Hello Friend!

As Independence Day approaches, I've been thinking a lot about freedom. I'm sure you have been as well. It is important to realize from where true freedom originates. 2 Cor. 3:17 says, *"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* John 8:32 says, *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* By telling, believing, and living the truth we can maintain our freedoms that have come from God, and not from any man. The "Rights" that are guaranteed to Americans in the Constitution are simply the liberties that the founding Fathers believed God had endowed to humanity.

Government is an institution divinely created by God to maintain these freedoms and liberties by punishing evil and rewarding good (Romans 13:1-6, 1 Peter 2:13-16). Proverbs 29:2 says, *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan."* Our Founders recognized this as the purpose of government and built our great nation from these and many more Scriptural instructions.

Patrick Henry understood how precious a righteous government was. In 1775 he addressed the Second Virginia Convention and with this fiery speech that applies so well to our situation today.

"...If we wish to be free—if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending—if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak—unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance, by lying supinely on our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot?

Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of the means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us.

The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable—and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come!

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, “Peace! Peace!”—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”

- Patrick Henry – March 23, 1775

Source: <https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/133/historic-american-documents/4956/patrick-henrys-speech-to-the-virginia-house-of-burgesses-richmond-virginia-march-23-1775/>

Thanks for reading, have a wonderful Independence Day!

- Christy Kind