

# Freedom

Freedom has become synonymous with America. It is one of the great treasures that come with being a citizen in this country. Our liberty was not gifted to us by politicians. Instead, it was given to us by God (James 1:17). God is the giver of every good thing!

Do you value your freedom? If so, how much? Since today is the day in which we celebrate our independence as a nation, let's consider the blessings attached to living in a free country.

## Freedom as Americans

- It is a great blessing. Not everyone in the world can enjoy this blessing. The children of Israel were slaves under the oppressive rule of Egypt (Exodus 1:7-14). Due to the color of their skin, in the 18th and 19th centuries, many people in this country were denied their freedom. Many scholars estimate that as much as one-third of the Roman Empire were slaves.
- It provides wonderful privileges. We can pursue our dreams and go wherever we desire. We also possess religious freedom. This means that we can freely worship God and spread the gospel. The early Christians did not have these freedoms (Acts 14:19; 17:5-9).
- It comes at great cost. Many throughout the past decades have sacrificed their lives so that we can have freedom in this country. Many continue to fight so that we can maintain this liberty. We need always to be praying for these brave men and women.
- It comes with great responsibility (Luke 12:48). We have the freedom to worship, but do we take advantage of it? We have the freedom to promote the gospel, but do we take advantage of it (Matthew 28:19)?

## Freedom in Christ

- It sets us free from an even worse master. Sin is the most oppressive slave master (Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:23). Those in Christ are liberated from this cruel master (Romans 6:15-18, 20-22).
- It came as a result of a greater sacrifice. Jesus gave His life on a cross (Galatians 5:1; Revelation 1:5-6). The gospel is called "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25).
- It comes with greater responsibilities. We must live daily for Jesus (Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:4). We must be slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:22)!

## Conclusion:

Are you experiencing the freedom that is found in Christ?

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