

A WORD OF INSPIRATION – GOD BLESS AMERICA

On July 4, 1776, fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence. They were not wild-eyed radicals; they were dedicated men of means and education. They valued freedom and God's will more than they valued their properties and their lives. Standing tall, straight and unwavering, they pledged for the support of this declaration, a firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence of Almighty God. These are those who laid the foundation of our nation.

America was established by godly men upon godly principles. As a result, no other country enjoys the freedoms we share in America. Nowhere on this earth do living standards and opportunities equal ours. God has been good to America in every respect because the cornerstones for the greatness of America came directly from the Holy Scriptures. A careful study of the documents that are the foundation of the United States will indicate that the majority of rules, regulations, statutes and laws were taken right out of the Bible and they impacted life in America.

For example, the local churches and preachers provided the conscience, the strength, the spiritual and moral fiber with which this nation was put together. The church is to set the standards of righteousness, according to the Bible, as to what is right and wrong.

Secondly, the family was a sacred institution, as a training ground and loving example for the next generation. The family unit was established by God to promote communication and relationships at the highest and most intimate level (*Genesis 2:24, Ephesians 5:22-6:3*).

Thirdly, God established government for the safety and security of its people from threats within and without. In the Old Testament we read that when "*there was no king (government) in Israel, every man did what was right in his own eyes*" (*Judges 17:6*) and the nation suffered greatly until God intervened.

On this July 4th, take a moment amidst the flag flying, family cook-outs, and fireworks to reflect on the independence of this country, what made her great and our God who has blessed America. As the scriptures say, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD*" (*Psalms 33:12a*).

Happy Independence Day