

Freedom

Definitions:

- *The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- *Absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government.
- *The state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.
- *The state of being physically unrestricted and able to move easily.
- *(freedom from) The state of not being subject to or affected by (a particular undesirable thing).
- *The power of self-determination attributed to the will; the quality of being independent of fate or necessity.
- *Unrestricted use of something
- *[archaic] Familiarity or openness in speech or behavior.

What I did not know is that 'freedom' is a compound word made of the word 'free' and the suffix '-dom'. The origins of 'free' and of '-dom' show the word 'freedom' in a different light.

Origins:

'free' - Old English frēo (adjective), frēon (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch vrij and German frei, from an Indo-European root meaning 'to love', shared by friend.

'-dom' - Old English -dōm, originally meaning 'decree, judgment'.

[Definition of -dom in English: suffix

Forming nouns:

1Denoting a state or condition:freedom

2Denoting rank or status:earldom

3Denoting a domain:fiefdom

4Denoting a class of people or the attitudes associated with them, regarded collectively:officialdom]

Reading this as is one could translate 'freedom' in the literal as meaning a "decree/judgment to love". Isn't that what absolute freedom is, to live in love? To love one another, to love ourselves, and above all to love our Lord. I can only tell you I am still working on loving everyone even those that hurt me or want to hurt me (emotionally, mentally, and even physically for my beliefs) so I cannot give you any personal examples of this from my life.

I can, however, share a few others. Actually, I will only mention their names and maybe you have heard of these incredible people; John the Revelator, Stephen, and Jesus Christ. Have you heard of these people? I know you have. These are but three examples of people who had such a deep love for others that they fully gave their lives so that others could experience this freedom.

Freedom comes at a price. Are we willing to pay the price for absolute freedom? What is the price...

Matthew 22:37-40 - Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Remember everything is a process. This coming Saturday the United States of America will be celebrating its Independence Day. Just as America's freedom was a process, so is our individual personal freedom from our old ways. Here are facts on the process of America's freedom to illustrate the importance of the process and to show that it does take time, patience, and trust in our Creator who made each and every one of us as well as the escape route for us to seek and find freedom.

April 19, 1775: American Revolutionary War began

July 02, 1776: Independence from British rule declared

July 04, 1776: Congress approved the text of the Declaration of Independence

August 02, 1776: Declaration of Independence was signed

September 03, 1783: American Revolutionary War ends

The battle for spiritual independence started before we were born. Declare your independence then walk out your freedom. Remember, In God We Trust.

Bible Verses:

- **Psalm 146** - Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! 2 While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. 3 Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. 4 His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish. 5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God, 6 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, 7 Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners. 8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous. 9 The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down. 10 The Lord shall reign forever— Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!
- **Galatians 5:13-15** - For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!
- **Romans 12:9-21** - Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in

the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Alicia R. Shipe

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