



("Spirit of Movement": Acrylic by Alicia R. Shipe)

Own It...Don't Give It Up **Wednesday Word: June 29, 2016**

In a few days, here in the United States of America, we will be celebrating our independence from the tyranny of Great Britain's rule. Our Independence Day means so much more today than it did in 1776, when the declaration was formed, for many different reasons. Not realizing how close we are to July 4th I already had this topic in mind. The bottom line of this message is if you own it (the "it" can be anything) nobody can take it from you; it can only be given away by you if you choose. You can also be severely persuaded to give it up.

Let's talk about some of those "its". How about freedom? How about possessions? How about faith? Nobody can take these things from you. However, through various rough times or deep persuasion from others we can make the choice (knowingly or unknowingly) to give these things up. Again I say if you own it don't give it up.

Jesus went through enormous torture but he never gave up. He never gave up His identity as the Son of God. He never gave up His belief or His faith in His Father, God Almighty. He never gave up on His followers. Sometimes, things get really rough (I mean really rough) to the point where we start questioning our faith and begin to doubt our purpose and our walk. You own your faith, don't give it up. You own your freedom; it was bought and paid for by Jesus' sacrifice. The deed to the property of the Temple of Jesus Christ (that's you and me) has been signed and put into our hands. We own it, it's ours, don't give it up.

Matthew 13:44-46 - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant

seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

We the people of the Kingdom of Heaven...we possess Heaven within us because Jesus paid for it. Jesus bought us out of slavery to the things of this world. He paid for our freedom. He fought by His sacrifice and resurrection for our freedom against the tyranny of His enemy. We own our freedom; we own our faith which Jesus, through Holy Spirit, has given us. We own it because He owns it. Don't give it up.

John 16:12-15 - "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Romans 8:14-17 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Revelation 21:6-7 - And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Own your freedom; it is paid in full. Own your faith and let it grow; it is paid in full. Own your blessings from Father God; it is paid in full. You own them all, don't give them up.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-FHwdx5BIvc>

Alicia R. Shipe