

**It's your Independence**  
(Now what are you going to do with it?)

*God has always resisted kings and leaders who oppress others, therefore he blessed the United States of America as we fought to gain freedom from such a government. The founding fathers of this great country gave thanks and praised God for his grace towards us and he has raised us up as a witness of his power! Satan has worked systematically to erode our Christian heritage, in an attempt at stopping God's plan. As Americans, men and women have given their lives to defend this country and to bring others to freedom. As Christians, we cannot allow any more of the erosion in the moral structure of our country! The foundation is that solid rock of "Christ Jesus", and without that, we will not stand! We must stand up and be counted before the wicked cause God's blessings to turn to curses! We the living must honor those who have gone on before by continuing the work that they started. We must work while it is yet light; the night is coming when no man can work!*

*I Peter 2:15-17*

*God has given us liberty and the freedom that men have always longed for. As a society we have enjoyed this freedom to the point of taking it for granted, yet there is a spiritual awakening as we seek the Lord for the baptism of the spirit, and the power that comes with the gifts thereof. But much like the fictional character "Rip Van Winkle", who went to sleep for 20 years and woke to find everything changed, we are in a similar situation. He woke to find that many of his friends and family were gone and the world around him was strange and unfriendly to him an "old man". Now as we stand for the cause of Christ we find that the world sees the church as an "old man", past it's time, with outdated ideas and intolerant to sin. We must stay strong and use this freedom we have been given to choose to submit to God and to show his righteousness to the world.*

**Joshua 24:14-15**

**God has given us Independence, what we do with it is our choice.**

PS 119:45 I will walk about in **freedom**, for I have sought out your precepts.

**I.) What are the virtues of Independence?**

**A.) Freedom of action. Gen 14:18-23**

**B.) Responsibility**

**1.) Speak the truth. John 9:21-25**

**2.) To submit willingly to God's will. I Peter 2:13-16**

**II.) What are the pitfalls or dangers of independence?**

**A.) Selfishness I Sam. 25:1-11**

**B.) Mismanagement of blessings Luke 15:12-16**

**C.) Arrogance III John 9-11**

**III.) How do we use this independence to succeed?**

HEB 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.