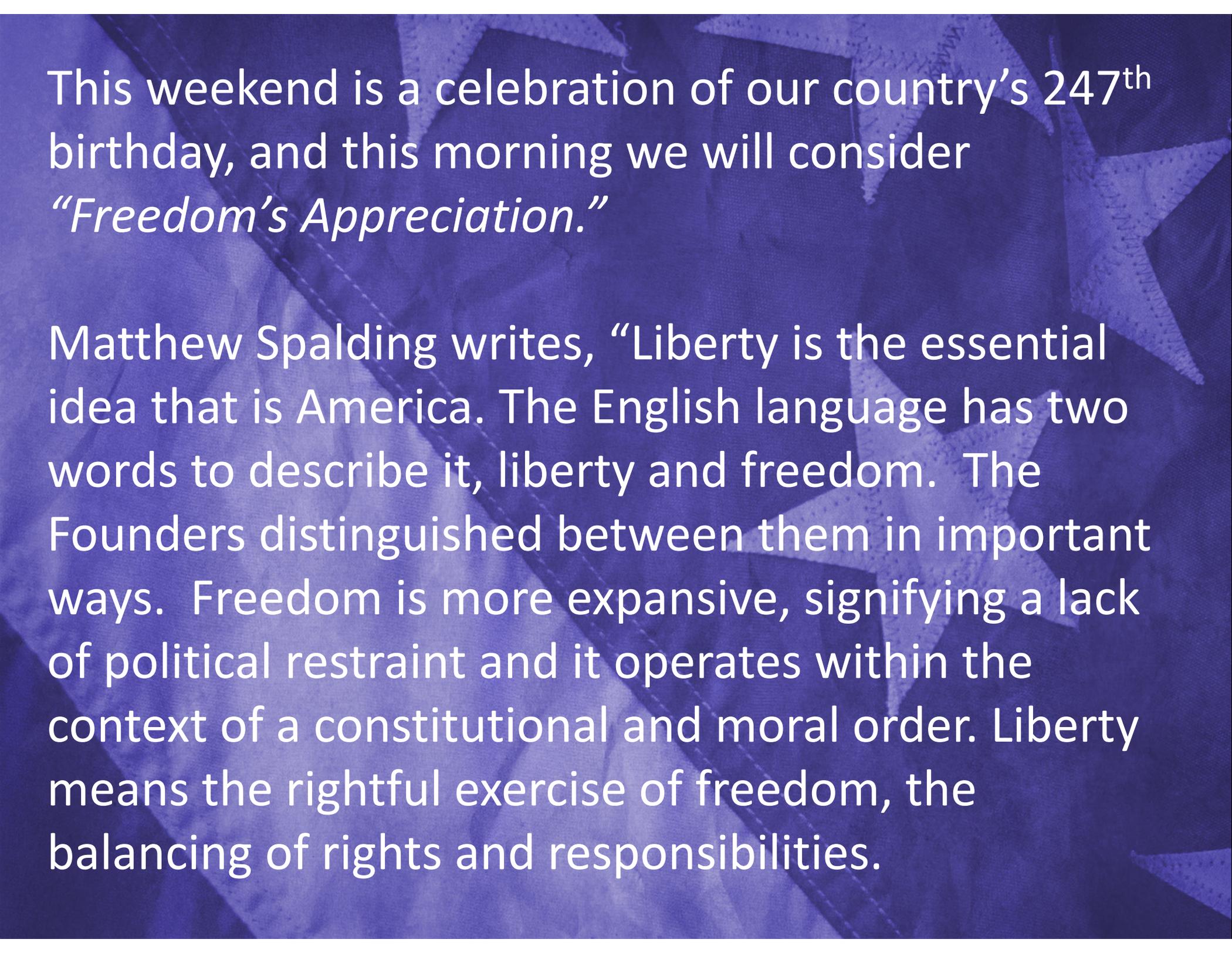


FREEDOM'S APPRECIATION



Jn. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**



This weekend is a celebration of our country's 247th birthday, and this morning we will consider *"Freedom's Appreciation."*

Matthew Spalding writes, "Liberty is the essential idea that is America. The English language has two words to describe it, liberty and freedom. The Founders distinguished between them in important ways. Freedom is more expansive, signifying a lack of political restraint and it operates within the context of a constitutional and moral order. Liberty means the rightful exercise of freedom, the balancing of rights and responsibilities."

The right to acquire, dispose of and bequeath property was not simply an economic concept; it was the precondition for liberty. Only if man could be independent, could he be free.”

<http://www.whatwouldthefoundersthink.com/book-review-we-still-hold-these-truths>

❖ By definition...

freedom

1. the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint: *He won his freedom after a retrial.*
2. exemption from external control, interference, regulation, etc. <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/freedom>

FREEDOM, *noun*

1. A state of exemption from the power or control of another; liberty; exemption from slavery, servitude or confinement. *freedom* is personal, civil, political, and religious.
2. Particular privileges; franchise; immunity; as the *freedom* of a city.
3. Power of enjoying franchises.
4. Exemption from fate, necessity, or any constraint in consequence of predetermination or otherwise; as the *freedom* of the will.
5. Any exemption from constraint or control.
6. Ease or facility of doing any thing. He speaks or acts with *freedom*
7. Frankness; boldness. He addressed his audience with *freedom*
8. License; improper familiarity; violation of the rules of decorum; with a plural. Beware of what are called innocent freedoms.

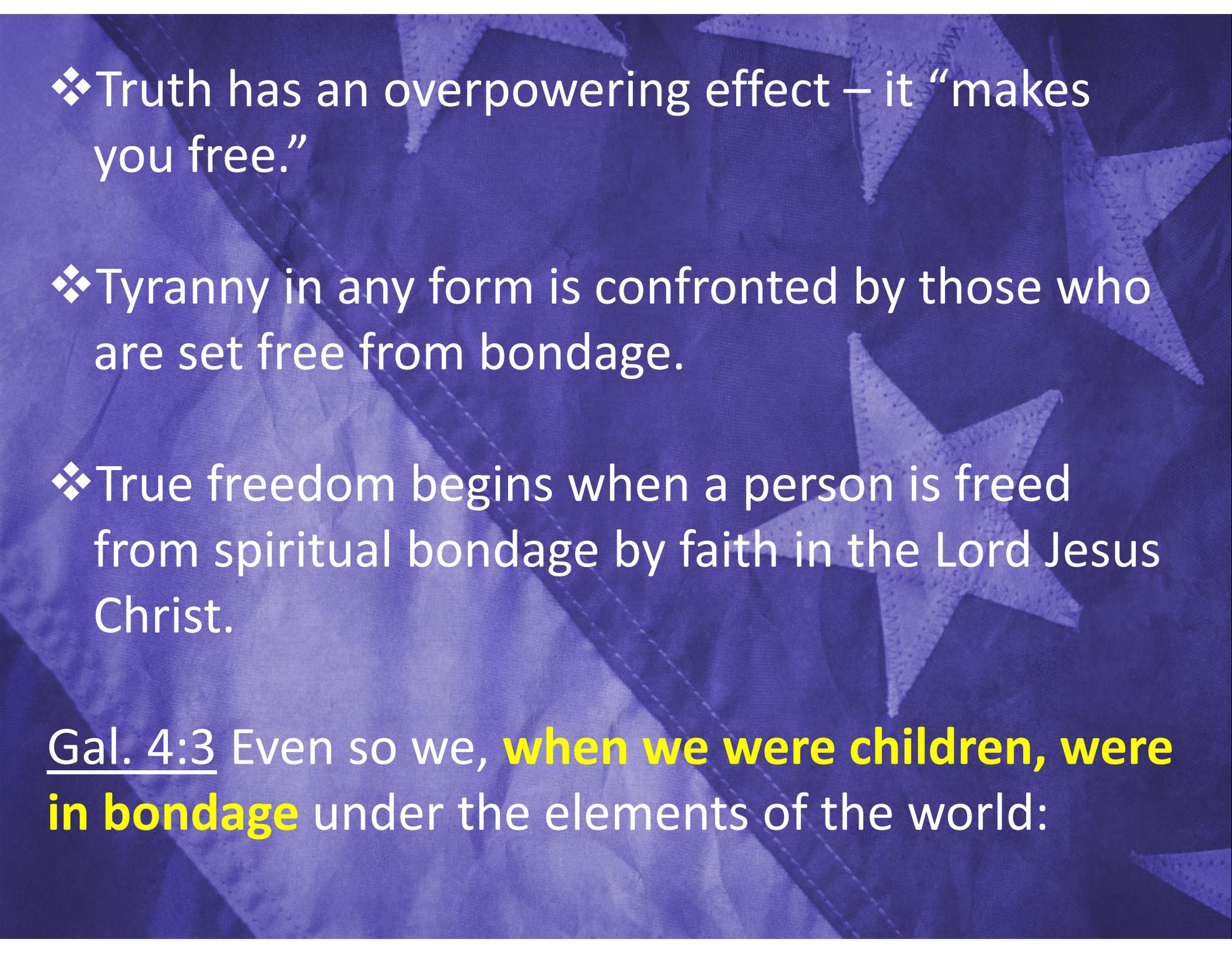
First occurrence in the Bible(KJV): Leviticus 25:10

Lev. 25:10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and **proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof**: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/freedom>

I. FREEDOM IS ROOTED IN TRUTH

Jn. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

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- ❖ Truth has an overpowering effect – it “makes you free.”
 - ❖ Tyranny in any form is confronted by those who are set free from bondage.
 - ❖ True freedom begins when a person is freed from spiritual bondage by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gal. 4:3 Even so we, **when we were children, were in bondage** under the elements of the world:

Rom. 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be **delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

Gal. 5:1 **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

❖ Believers must guard against those that would attempt to bring back spiritual bondage.

Gal. 2:4 And that because of **false brethren unawares brought in**, who came in privily to spy out **our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:**

❖ As a nation, we must be alert to those in high places that are not honest with the people.

Gulf of Tonkin incident, complex naval event in the Gulf of Tonkin, off the coast of Vietnam, that was presented to the U.S. Congress on August 5, 1964, as two unprovoked attacks by North Vietnamese torpedo boats on the destroyers *Maddox* and *Turner Joy* of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and that led to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which allowed President Lyndon B. Johnson to greatly escalate U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Gulf-of-Tonkin-incident>

<https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2008/february/truth-about-tonkin>

September 11, 1941: Fireside Chat 18: On The Greer Incident

President Roosevelt takes advantage of the *Greer* incident, in which a German submarine fired on an American destroyer near Iceland, **to argue for more American involvement in the war.** Citing the incident as an act of aggression, Roosevelt orders escorts to protect Lend Lease convoys and shoot German submarines on sight.

<https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/september-11-1941-fireside-chat-18-greer-incident>

When the British ocean liner *Lusitania* was sunk by a German submarine on May 7th, 1915, 1198 passengers died, including 128 Americans. For many years afterward, governments of the UK and USA lied about the ammunition and armaments that it was carrying.

❖ Wealthy families become wealthier when they can capitalize on war.

President Dwight Eisenhower's farewell address of Jan. 17, 1961, is just as relevant today as back then. Ike warned American citizens of the "military-industrial complex" and the dangers it presented to our nation and the world.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/1/16/22884021/eisenhower-farewell-warning-military-industrial-complex>

❖ “Truths” must be examined in order to determine their legitimacy. Truth is liberating. Distorted “truth” leads to tyranny.

1 Jn. 4:1 **Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

❖ If someone advocates works to purchase salvation, they are liars.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:
9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

II. FREEDOM IS REFINED IN TRAINING

❖ As freedom is properly taught, believers will properly enact and enjoy its benefits.

Gal. 5:1 **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. ...

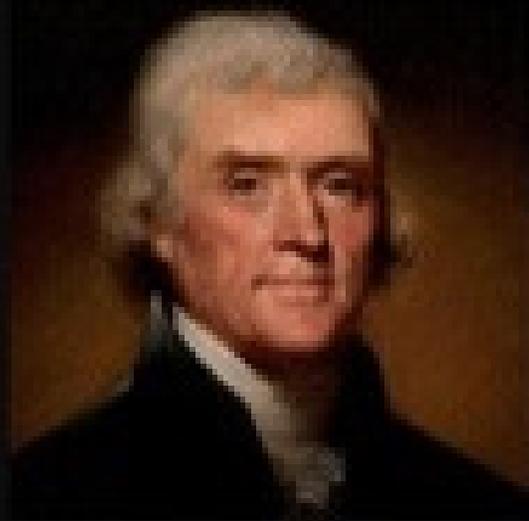
13 For, **brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**

❖ The spotlight of truth will reveal what is indeed true and damningly false:

Jn. 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

❖ Believers must be diligent and vigilant in guarding truth:



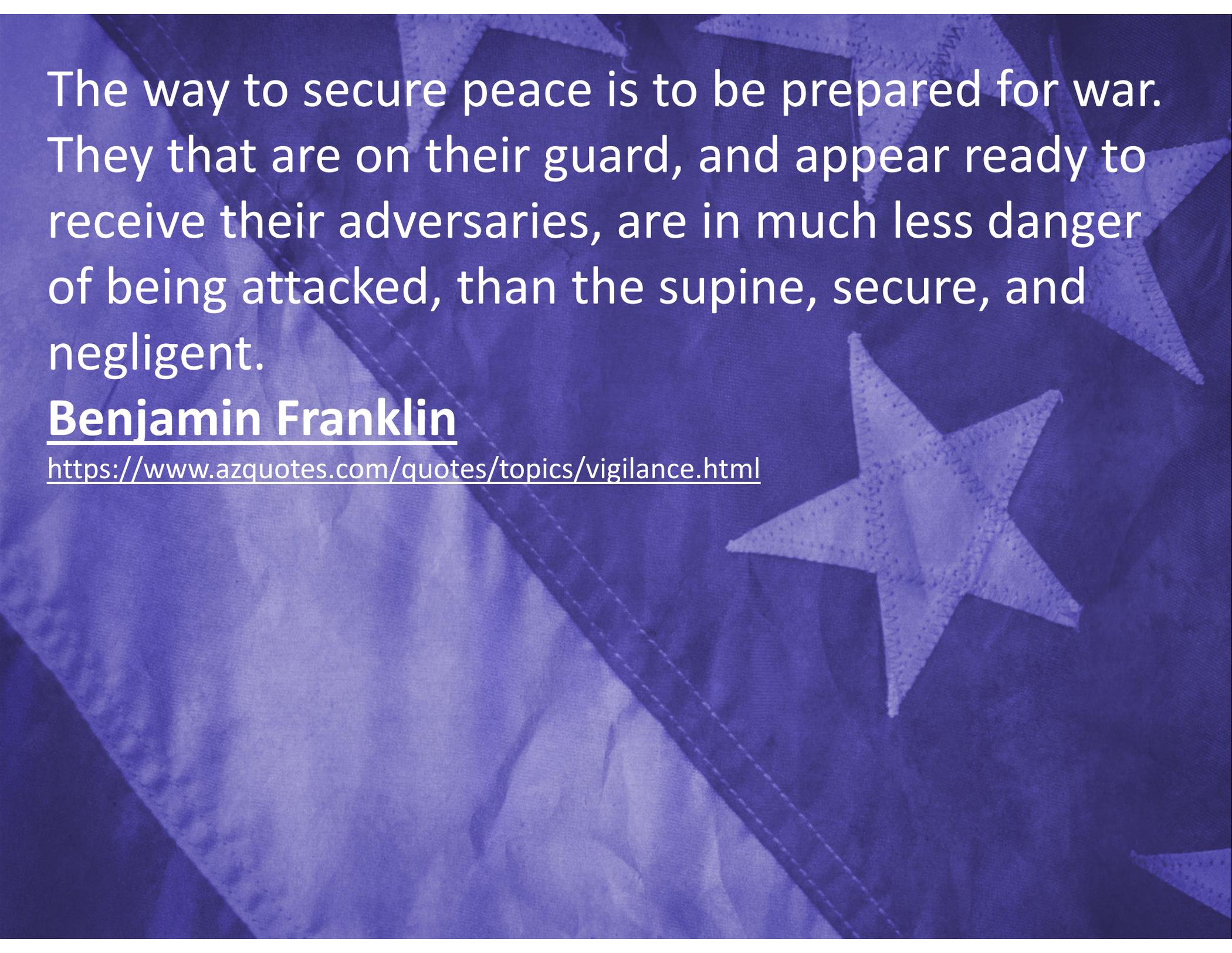
Let the eye of vigilance never be closed.

- Thomas Jefferson

AZ QUOTES

No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation.

Douglas MacArthur



The way to secure peace is to be prepared for war. They that are on their guard, and appear ready to receive their adversaries, are in much less danger of being attacked, than the supine, secure, and negligent.

Benjamin Franklin

<https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/vigilance.html>

To this day, so many years after the American Revolution, these principles—proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and promulgated by the United States Constitution—still define America as a nation and a people. Which is why friends of freedom the world over look to the United States not only as an ally against tyrants and despots but also as a powerful beacon to all those who strive to be free.

Matthew Spalding, Ph.D., Director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

<https://www.heritage.org/american-founders/report/why-america-exceptional>

- ❖ Believers must be rooted and grounded in the Word of God, being well trained, in order to confront the spiritual battles against the world, flesh, and devil.

III. FREEDOM IS REINFORCED IN TESTING

- ❖ A prepared military will protect the nation.
- ❖ A prepared believer will prevail when encountering spiritual warfare.

Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God** to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1 Pet. 5:8 **Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Jas. 4:7 **Submit** yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.

❖ The Bible gives us Heb. 11 as a reminder of others, just like believers today, who walked by faith and left a testimony for God's glory.

IV. FREEDOM IS REMINDED IN TESTIMONIES

❖ Washington, D. C. contains many monuments to commemorate the cost of freedom.

❖ Jesus lived a life that fulfilled His prophetic message of hope:

Isa. 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;**

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, **to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

Summary

❖ Freedom has never been “free.” For an American and for a believer, freedom is a cloak soaked with the blood of sacrifice and honor.

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

Ronald Reagan

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/20-great-verses-and-quotes-on-freedom-to-remind-us-it-is-not-free.html>



Rev. 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Conclusion

2 Cor. 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

Jas. 1:25 But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty**, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, **this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

Jn. 8:36 **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

Rom. 6:18 **Being then made free from sin**, ye became the servants of righteousness. ...

22 But **now being made free** from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

