

REAL FREEDOM
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*"For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever
the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom!"*
2 Corinthians 3:7 (NLT)

America as a nation was founded on Judeo/Christian principles

- The Pilgrims were Christians fleeing Europe to escape religious persecution
- They began their lives in this new country with the words, "In the name of God"
- They were followed by the Puritans in New England who created bible based commonwealths
- They established over 100 bible based covenants and compacts that are the foundation for our constitution
- All but 2 of the first 108 universities in America were Christian
- In the Harvard student handbook rule #1 is listed as:
"Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life." John 17:23 and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as the only foundation for our children to follow along with the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."
- In 1777 the Continental Congress voted to spend \$300,000 for bibles to be distributed throughout the 13 colonies
- In 1782 the United States congress declared:
"The congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools
- George Washington the first President and one of the founding fathers of our nation wrote this for a national day of thanksgiving:
"Where it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for the benefits and to humbly implore His protection and favor... And also that we may unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and ruler of nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions... To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue." October 3, 1789
- In 1775 George Washington used a flag with a pine tree on it and the saying, "Appeal to Heaven" to fly on his naval ships as a reminder to the colonists to appeal to God for help with the insurmountable odds against them in the revolutionary war
- Their motto was "No King but Jesus"
- Today like never before we as a people need to "Appeal to Heaven"

- ***“If my people who are called by my name will **humble themselves and pray and turn from their evil ways**, then **I will hear them from heaven, I will forgive their sins and heal their land.**”*** 2 Chronicles 7:14 (ERV)

What does real freedom look like for us today?

1. Real freedom involves a choice

“But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today who you will serve...But my family and I will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15 (CEB)

2. Real freedom has boundaries and limits

“All things are allowed,” you say. But not all things are good. “All things are allowed.” But some things don’t help anyone. Try to do what is good for others, not just what is good for yourselves.” 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (ERV)

“Live like free people, but don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Live as those who are serving God.” 1 Peter 2:16 (ERV)

3. Real freedom releases us from fear and tyranny

“The Spirit God gave us does not make us afraid. His Spirit is a source of power, love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (ERV)

4. Real freedom takes courage and is worth sacrificing for

“Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” Ephesians 5:2 (NASB)

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”
John 15:13 NASB)

5. Real freedom can only be found in Christ!

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

“People can be made free from the evil in the world. They can be made free by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 2:20 (ERV)

“So if the Son makes you free, you are really free!” John 8:36 (ERV)