

Glenn Beck: The Declaration of Independence Story Most Americans Never Heard

America has long celebrated the promise of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” But according to author and commentator Dinesh D’Souza, many Americans have forgotten what that final phrase was originally intended to mean—and the consequences could be far-reaching.

Today, the pursuit of happiness is often defined as personal fulfillment, self-expression or doing whatever feels right. Yet America’s founders envisioned something far different.

Drawing on the writings of the second President John Adams, D’Souza argues that true happiness was never meant to be rooted in self-gratification but in the lifelong pursuit of virtue.

“We think today of happiness in relativistic terms, something each person pursues in their own way,” D’Souza says. “To John was bad advice.”

The contrast becomes especially striking when compared with the famous line from Shakespeare’s Hamlet: “To thine own self be true.”

While modern culture often embraces that sentiment as a guiding principle, Adams believed human nature was far too flawed to simply trust every impulse.

“Adams understood that people are an imperfect amalgam of the admirable and the abominable,” D’Souza explains. “That being yourself does not automatically lead to good character. It’s more likely, in fact, to lead to self-absorption.”

Instead, Adams believed character had to be intentionally cultivated.

“The only way to attain a good character is, like everything else, to work at it,” D’Souza says. He describes how Adams encouraged people to imagine a noble character and then intentionally strive to become that person. “Walk like that character, think like him, feel like him, act like him. Over time, through the result of continual effort and the slow working of habit, one can become that person.”

According to D’Souza, Adams himself modeled that philosophy, earning a reputation as an incorruptible and deeply honest public servant.

That commitment reflected an even older idea first articulated by Aristotle.

“The founders subscribed to the Aristotelian belief that genuine happiness is achieved when the activity of the soul is in perfect harmony with virtue,” D’Souza says.



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For Adams, this wasn’t merely personal advice—it was the foundation upon which the American experiment would either stand or collapse.

“Without virtue,” D’Souza notes, “he believed America could not succeed.”

Adams famously warned, “The preservation of on the intellectual and moral character of the people.”

That conviction shaped his understanding of constitutional government. Unlike a monarchy, where political responsibility rests primarily with the king, Adams believed a republic

places that responsibility squarely on its citizens.

“In a people are the government,” D’Souza says. “So the virtue of the state is a reflection of the virtue of the people.”

Recognizing humanity’s sinful tendencies, Adams never assumed virtue would develop naturally. D’Souza explains that Adams believed faith in God, education and a clearly defined Constitution all worked together to restrain corruption and empower citizens to remove leaders driven by selfish ambition.

His warning feels increasingly relevant today.

“We’re more likely to think of pursuing happiness in narcissistic terms than in the way that Adams and the founders perceived it,” D’Souza observes.

Scripture echoes this same timeless principle. Proverbs 14:34 declares, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (MEV). America’s greatest challenges may ultimately be spiritual before they are political. Laws and elections certainly matter, but lasting national renewal begins with transformed hearts.

As believers pray for revival across the nation, Adams’ reminder deserves fresh consideration: A free republic is sustained not merely by its Constitution, but by the character of the people who live under it. If America hopes to preserve its liberty for generations to come, the pursuit of happiness may first require a renewed pursuit of virtue.

Abby Trivett is a writer and editor for Charisma Media and has a passion for sharing the gospel through the written word. She holds two degrees from Regent University, a B.A. in Communication with a concentration in Journalism and a Master of Arts in Journalism. She is the author of the newly released book, *The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment*. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Sid Roth, Jonathan Cahn Say Prophetic Signs Point to the Coming 'Greater Glory'

Brandon Lake has become one of the biggest names in Christian music, but if you ask him what matters most, it isn't the awards, the sold-out arenas or the billions of streams. It's whether his music opens the door for someone to encounter Jesus.

During a recent interview with CBS Mornings, the six-time Grammy Award-winning worship leader shared the heart behind his rapidly growing platform, explaining that every concert is designed to be something much deeper than entertainment.

"This isn't just about entertainment," Lake said. "This is like an encounter. People's lives are being changed. They're walking out better than they came in."

For the 36-year-old artist, whose latest live album, *King of Hearts*, has continued his remarkable rise in Christian music, every song carries a purpose beyond the stage.

"I feel like music is what God has called me to, the gift that He's given me, and that's how I'm able to share this message and reach people," he said.

That message has clearly resonated. CBS reported that Lake has amassed more than 4 billion streams while filling arenas across the country. Collaborations with artists including Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson and Cody Johnson have introduced his music to audiences far beyond traditional Christian circles.

But Lake says those partnerships aren't simply about expanding his career.

"Here's the thing," he said. "The songs are cool, but I think God loves collaborations."

Raised as a preacher's kid in South Carolina, Lake says his parents helped shape his understanding of what church should be.



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"My parents just—they made it fun," he recalled. "And I think what church is supposed to really be about, and that's community and sharing and everything that you have."

That same spirit of community carried him through the earliest days of his ministry. Unable to afford recording his first independent album, Closer, Lake launched an unconventional fundraiser, promising supporters he would tattoo their last names on his leg in exchange for financial backing.

"So I have 23 last names tattooed on my thigh," he said with a laugh. "I was willing to do anything short of sin to get this record done."

While his ministry flourished, however, Lake revealed that success brought an unexpected battle.

"When I didn't have the next songwriting invite or I didn't have the next song I was excited about or the next show, I started to panic," he said. "But I was too prideful to tell my wife what I was experiencing. So, I'm having some weird thoughts, dark thoughts."

Looking back, he said one realization surprised him.

"I guess I'd say a lot of people's lowest moments come from a

low moment,” Lake reflected. “And mine came from a high moment.”

Through that difficult season, he says God, along with the support of his family and close friends, helped restore his perspective. Today, much of that balance comes from spending time with his wife and three sons on their South Carolina farm.

Perhaps the most compelling moment of the interview came when Lake explained why he intentionally writes songs that invite rather than condemn.

Asked what his music offers people who may not consider themselves religious or even believers, Lake pointed to the power of personal testimony instead of pressure.

“The best thing I can do is offer my story, what God has done in my life, and allow God to do the rest,” he said. “Like I’m not out here trying to beat people with a Bible and, you know, fire and brimstone. I don’t think that’s effective.”

Instead, he believes every song can become an invitation to something greater.

“I think my songs are offerings,” Lake said. “And they’re open doors.”

In a culture increasingly skeptical of Christianity, that perspective offers a refreshing reminder for believers. Lake’s approach reflects the heart of Jesus—meeting people where they are, sharing what God has done and trusting the Holy Spirit to transform lives.

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released book, The Power of Suddenly: Discover How God Can Change Everything in a Moment. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.

Beloved California Pastor Dies During Venezuela Earthquake While Celebrating Birthday

The Worship Church Ministries family in Riverside County, California, is mourning the loss of a beloved pastor whose life was cut short during the catastrophic earthquakes that devastated parts of Venezuela, transforming what was meant to be a birthday celebration into an unimaginable tragedy.

Pastor Romildo Delima died after sustaining injuries when the hotel where he and his wife were staying was damaged during the powerful earthquakes, according to CBS Los Angeles. His wife survived the collapse but remains hospitalized with serious injuries.

According to CBS Los Angeles, the couple had traveled from Southern California to Brazil to visit relatives before continuing to Venezuela, where family members planned to celebrate Delima's 69th birthday. Their trip was nearing its end when the earthquakes struck.



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CBS Los Angeles reported that a collapsing wall inside the

hotel critically injured Delima. Although emergency responders transported him to a hospital alive, he later died from his injuries. His wife suffered a broken hip and a broken leg and underwent surgery.

For approximately 20 years, Delima faithfully led Worship Church Ministries in Riverside County, building a reputation as a pastor who invested deeply in the lives of those he served. Members of the congregation remember him as more than a preacher—they describe him as a trusted friend, counselor and spiritual father whose compassion reflected the heart of Christ.

“We will miss him all the time,” Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Mateo told CBS Los Angeles. “He’s like a best friend for me.”

In the days following the tragedy, church members have gathered to honor Delima’s memory by sharing photographs, listening to saved voicemail messages and praying together for his family, CBS Los Angeles reported.

Pastor Romildo’s son told CBS Los Angeles that relatives are now working through the difficult process of securing visas so they can travel to Venezuela.

An online fundraiser has been established to help cover the cost of returning the pastor’s remains home, assist with his wife’s medical care and ease the financial burden facing the family during the crisis. On the family’s GoFundMe page, they noted that it is part of his final wish to be “laid to rest in Brazil, beside his mother and surrounded by the rest of his family.” So far, over \$21,000 has been raised.

As Delima’s church continues to pray for his injured wife and support his family, his legacy of faithful ministry serves as a powerful testimony that a life surrendered to Christ leaves an eternal impact far beyond the years spent on earth. During their time of grief, lift up Delima’s family and friends in prayer right now.

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From Israel to New York: Jewish Pride March Comes After Israel's Controversial Dead Sea Celebrations

Thousands of people filled the streets of Manhattan for the 56th annual New York City Pride March on Sunday, one of the world's largest LGBTQ celebrations, drawing an estimated 75,000 participants and roughly 2 million spectators under the theme, "For All of Us."

According to reporting by The Jerusalem Post, citing the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), multiple Jewish LGBTQ organizations participated in the march, including Jew York Pride and Zioness.

The Jerusalem Post reported that members of Jew York Pride were greeted with applause and cheers in portions of the route, while participants marching with Zioness later encountered anti-Israel chants from some spectators. The publication noted that security personnel accompanied Jewish groups during the event amid heightened concerns surrounding

demonstrations connected to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.



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The New York City march comes right after thousands gathered for the annual Pride Land festival near the Dead Sea in Israel, an event held in close proximity to the biblical region traditionally associated with Sodom and Gomorrah. Ahead of the celebration, Israeli police announced an expanded security presence to protect Pride Month events across the country. Tel Aviv also hosted its annual Pride celebrations.

While these celebrations have generated significant cultural attention, they point to something profoundly disturbing: the sins that God clearly destroyed cities for in the Old Testament are back at the forefront of the news.

In Genesis 19, the Bible records God's judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah after describing the cities' pervasive wickedness and rejection of His ways. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, those cities are repeatedly referenced as enduring examples of divine judgment against persistent rebellion and immorality.

The prophet Isaiah likewise issued a sobering warning to societies that blur the distinction between righteousness and sin: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness" (Isa. 5:20).

As Pride events continue to unfold around the world—from New York City to Tel Aviv and the shores of the Dead Sea—Christians are reminded that God's standard of truth does not shift with culture.

While public opinion may change from generation to generation, Scripture calls believers to stand firmly on His Word,

discerning right from wrong according to His unchanging truth.

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8 Life-Changing Biblical Habits Every Christian Should Practice

As rescue crews continue combing through the wreckage left behind by Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes, one extraordinary survival story has captured the world's attention—a mother who says the determination to protect her infant son kept her alive while the two were trapped beneath the rubble.

According to the BBC, baby Juan David was rescued from the collapsed Vistamar apartment complex in the coastal town of Caraballeda and reunited with his father. Rescue workers later pulled his mother, Diana, from the debris alive after the pair endured hours buried beneath the remains of their building.

For Diana, every moment beneath the concrete became a battle to remain conscious—not only for herself, but for the tiny life beside her.

Speaking to the BBC from a clinic in Caracas where she is recovering, Diana said her infant son became the reason she refused to surrender to exhaustion.

“He was my driving force,” she said. “So I stayed awake and alert. Every now and then, I touched his nose. When he cried, I knew he was breathing.”



To order Abby Trivett's new book, The Power of Suddenly, visit .

Those quiet checks became an anchor in the darkness, reassuring Diana that her son was still alive and giving her the resolve to keep fighting for both of their lives until rescuers arrived.

Their rescue comes as Venezuela faces a mounting humanitarian crisis following two powerful earthquakes that struck within seconds of each other near Caracas along the country's northern coast. The BBC reported that more than 1,700 people have been confirmed dead, while tens of thousands remain unaccounted for as emergency crews continue searching collapsed neighborhoods.

Stories like Diana's point beyond human endurance alone. They remind us that hope can remain alive even when circumstances appear impossible. As families across Venezuela continue praying for miracles and mourning tremendous loss, the survival of Diana and baby Juan David offers a powerful reminder of the precious gift of life and the strength that can emerge in the darkest moments.

As Psalm 46:1 declares, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” While rescue operations continue and many families still await answers, let us join in prayer together for comfort for the grieving, endurance for first responders and miracles for those who may yet be found

alive beneath the rubble.

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