

5 Powerful Lessons on Freedom and Faith this Independence Day

As Americans celebrate Independence Day on July 4, it is essential to reflect not only on the historical significance of this day but also on the spiritual aspects that underpin the freedoms and values cherished in the nation.

Charisma Media sat down with Pastor Marcus Rogers, a military veteran, influential YouTube minister and pastor of Firehouse Church in Chicago, Illinois. Several key takeaways emerged, reminding us of the importance of gratitude, unity and our dependence on God in the pursuit of true independence.

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Here are five essential ideals to reflect on over the Independence Day holiday:

Service is a Privilege: Rogers, who comes from a military family background, emphasizes the pride and honor associated with serving one's country. Just as the Founding Fathers fought for independence, military service embodies the selflessness and dedication required to uphold the freedoms and values established by America's Forefathers.

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you," (1 Thess. 5:18). Rogers reminds us to appreciate the privilege of living in a country where service is seen as an honor.

Unity is Beautiful: Rogers shares his experience of serving alongside fellow soldiers from various backgrounds, representing every corner of America. He highlights the

profound beauty of coming together as one, overcoming differences and working as a united group to protect the nation and its freedoms.

“Be eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,” (Eph. 4:3). Rogers underscores the importance of unity, reminding Americans of the strength that lies in embracing teamwork and working toward a common goal.

Gratitude for Freedom: Serving in war-torn regions like Iraq and Afghanistan allowed Rogers to witness firsthand the stark contrast between the privileges enjoyed in America and the lack of freedom experienced by those in oppressed countries. His return to American soil brought an overwhelming sense of appreciation for the freedoms often taken for granted.

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him,” (Col. 3:17). Rogers encourages believers to express gratitude for the blessings of living in a country that values individual liberties and affords opportunities for growth and prosperity.

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Importance of Free Speech: Rogers addresses the increasing challenges and restrictions faced by those with differing viewpoints, urging believers to exercise their right to free speech while it is still available. He emphasizes the need for alternative avenues to express beliefs and ideas.

“Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, that it may give grace to the listeners,” (Eph. 4:29). This verse highlights the responsibility to use free speech wisely, adhering to biblical principles of building up and encouraging others.

Dependence on God: Rogers addresses the importance of recognizing our dependence on God, reminding believers that true independence lies in embracing our reliance on the Creator.

“‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are His offspring’,” (Acts 17:28). Rogers encourages individuals to seek God’s guidance and acknowledge His sovereignty, understanding that true independence comes from surrendering to His will.

These key takeaways serve as a reminder of the cherished freedoms and values upon which the nation was founded. They inspire a spirit of gratitude, unity and reliance on God, encouraging citizens to honor the past, embrace the present and shape a brighter future that glorifies the Lord in all we say and do.

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