

Let's Celebrate 'Declaration Day'

On July 4, we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, calling it Independence Day. But our independence actually came seven years later, in 1783. On July 4, 1776, we made a declaration of our basic principles which means the holiday should really be called "Declaration Day."

Our Founding Fathers declared, first of all, that all men were created equal. This powerful statement acknowledges our creation by God and that everything comes from Him. It was God who created us equal, with no bonus for ancestry, skin color, gender or other distinction. The founders echoed the biblical statement that, in Christ, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28, BSB).

Breaking news, Spirit-filled stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!

Second, they declared that it was God who gave us inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. No one can take our life, because "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1John 5:11b). In the same way, the Spirit of the Lord gives us freedom (2 Cor. 3:17), not to indulge ourselves but to serve others in love (Gal. 6:13). The Lord gives us the choice of which path to follow in pursuit of happiness (Deut. 30:19), but He guides us there by showing us that life, prosperity and honor come from pursuing righteousness and love (Prov. 21:21).

In the many years since 1776, our nation has struggled to live up to the principles declared by our Founding Fathers. The stain of slavery and racism, denying God's declaration of equality, has only now begun to disappear from society. Even

so, the scars remain, and more work needs to be done to bring the American dream to our needy communities.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Then there are also those who have forgotten that our rights come from God, denying Him and looking to the state as their source of rights and happiness. They have also forgotten that godless revolutions like the French Revolution and the communist revolution led only to poverty and enslavement by the state. As attacks mount from these totalitarian, anti-Christian forces, we stand in grave danger of losing the God-given rights and freedoms declared so eloquently in 1776.

It's time to turn things around.

Thank you for visiting . To enjoy the rest of this MyCharisma post, please visit this link.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!