

## Freedom in, Freedom Out<sup>1</sup>

### Isaiah 61:1 (ESV)

**The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;**

Greetings, Podcast Patriots! Once again, I thank you for listening in today. I want to thank a friend of mine, Dr. Kevin Clarkson of the Liberty Church in Yukon, OK for a recent sermon entitled, “1619 or 1620?” That sermon stimulated thought for today’s devotional.

Jesus, of course quoted the words of **Isaiah 61** in His Nazareth sermon in **Luke 4**. The proclamation of Liberty or freedom is appealing to all who have been held captive. This is true if we are the captives of sin or of sinful men. Why have so many people left California and other tyrannical states and headed for places like Florida? For freedom! Why are people coming to Christ with their addictions and distresses? For freedom!

God is the source of freedom for us. **George Washington** communicated to the Officers and Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Association, August 8, 1776:

**If we make Freedom our choice, we must obtain it, by the Blessing of Heaven on our united and vigorous efforts....I trust that Providence will smile upon our Efforts, and establish us once more, the Inhabitants of a free and happy Country. (1732GW068)**

While God is the source, we play a role in our freedom, too. We are not passive in our quest for liberty, but “vigorous in our efforts.” Consider some of the ingredients to our freedom:

1. It comes with the Spirit of the Lord. **2 Corinthians 3:17** (ESV) reads:  
**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**
2. It comes with an inner awareness – **Luke 17:20-21** (ESV)  
**<sup>20</sup>Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, <sup>21</sup>nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you [or: within you].”**
3. It comes with an inner determination – **Galatians 5:1** (ESV):  
**For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**
4. It comes with truth – **John 8:31-32** (ESV)  
**<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

Please notice that we are to abide, live in, and continue with the word of Jesus in order to know truth so that truth can free us.

**Thomas Jefferson** has been attributed with the quote, “**Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.**” It is more likely that a man named **John Curran** actually coined it. It was elaborated on by **Wendell Phillips** in an anti-slavery speech in 1852:

**Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty – power is ever stealing from the many to the few. The manna of popular liberty must be gathered each day or it is rotten. . . . [He went on to speak of**

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<sup>1</sup> Some thoughts for this lesson come from a sermon by Kevin Clarkson, “1619 or 1620?” delivered in Yukon, OK, 7.4.2021

**the need for people to be aware of the potential for tyrannical rule and have a constant determination to stand against it.**

There really is a vigilance involved in our freedoms. We must be vigilant when we deal with sins that can rob us of our freedom. **James 4:7** (ESV) is a reminder for us:

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

Notice that the vigilance begins with a submission to God. So, whether we are talking about a false gospel deceiving people, as Paul describes in Galatians, or an out and out attack on the souls of men, vigilance becomes a key piece of our lives. It enables us to submit to God and then resist the devil.

That same principle applies to our freedoms as Americans. This country was eventually established on the biblical principles that we can read in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. We obtained freedom by diligently submitting to God and resisting an evil empire in self-defense.

Similarly we are engaged in that same kind of spiritual warfare today. We are fighting evil by submitting to God and then standing for Him. Freedom is not free or easy but well-worth the price.

Keep The Light of Liberty Burning!