

54.5 Building on Bunker Hill

Romans 5:3-5 (NKJV)

³And not only *that* but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Greetings Patriots! This is Perry Greene with GNA. Today I want to talk about “Building on Bunker Hill.” The point I want us to see is, that even in trials and loss we can learn and achieve in the end. Losses may cost us dearly but we can succeed through the lessons of these challenges.

On June 17, 1775, British troops, under General William Howe's command, charged from Bunker Hill to attack the colonial soldiers on Breed's Hill, led by Colonel William Prescott. The Americans had the high ground and repelled the British twice. On the third assault, the Colonials ran low on ammunition and were forced to retreat. The Americans killed or wounded 1054 of the 2300 British troops. The Continentals made a good showing before they were forced to retreat.

Amos Farnsworth, a corporal in the Massachusetts Militia, made this entry in his diary immediately after the Battle of Bunker Hill:

We within the entrenchment...having fired away all ammunition and having no reinforcements...were overpowered by numbers and obliged to leave. . . . I did not leave the entrenchment until the enemy got in. I then retreated ten or fifteen rods.

Then I received a wound in my right arm, the ball going through a little below my elbow, breaking the little shell bone. Another ball struck my back, taking a piece of skin about as big as a penny.

But I got to Cambridge that night...Oh the goodness of God in preserving my life, although they fell on my right and on my left! O may this act of deliverance of thine, O God, lead me never to distrust thee; but may I ever trust in thee and put confidence in no arm of flesh!¹

On June 17, 1843, Daniel Webster spoke of the Founding Fathers' regard for the Bible in an address celebrating the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument, Charleston, Massachusetts:

The Bible came with them. And it is not to be doubted, that to free and universal reading of the Bible, in that age, men were much indebted for right views of civil liberty. The Bible is a book of faith, and a book of doctrine, and a book of morals, and a book of religion, of special revelation from God; but it is also a book which teaches man his own individual responsibility, his own dignity, and his equality with his fellow-man.²

When I think back to the conflict for our independence from Great Britain, I cannot help but think about the men and women who went onto the field of battle with the seasoned British troops. Amos Farnsworth and others were everyday people like you and me who took up the cause of Liberty. They trusted Providence because they knew the scriptures. These are the Patriots whom we honor on key holidays. Ordinary people, generation after generation, stood against the evils of tyranny.

God has placed the desire for liberty within each of us. Historians attribute this quote to George Washington:

¹ Federer, William J. *American Quotations*. Amerisearch, 2013, pp.548-549

² *Ibid*, p. 1090.

“The thing that sets the American Christian apart from all other people in the world is that he’ll die on his feet before he’ll live on his knees.”

Does this sound like modern American Christians? For the most part, no. Most modern American Christians sound more like what Benjamin Franklin described:

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Another individual from the Bunker Hill battle was Dr. Joseph Warren. He was a mere thirty-four years of age when he went to battle. He was a patriot serving in various patriot organizations and eventually became president of the revolutionary Massachusetts Provincial Congress. He had sent Paul Revere and William Dawes on their famous “midnight ride” to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock of the coming British Regulars.

On June 14, 1775, three days before the Battle of Bunker Hill (actually Breed’s Hill), the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts elected Dr. Warren to the rank of Major General. He had no military experience but his superiors placed him in the presence of the whole British army. Warren was a man of great courage who chose to shoulder a musket and join the fighting men behind the barricades on the hill. He had a premonition of dying at Bunker Hill and was shot in the back of the head and died there.³

Farnsworth and Warren were real men and real heroes of the American Revolution. It is incumbent on us to remember these and the others who fought for liberty against overwhelming numbers of seasoned British troops. Abigail Adams wrote her husband John of Dr. Warren’s death:

Dearest Friend,

The Day; perhaps the decisive Day is come on which the fate of American depends, my bursting Heart must find vent at my pen. I have just heard that our dear Friend Dr. Warren is no more but fell gloriously fighting for his country... Abigail Adams to John Adams, Sunday, 18 June 1775

Bunker Hill was officially a loss for the Americans, however, in this battle, Americans learned that they could stand against the British. They ran out of ammunition but appeared to hold their own and could have defeated the Red Coats. This confidence-builder proved useful in later battles of the War.

The Continental Army had many early losses in the War. These trials not only tested the courage and determination of the Colonials, they also built strength into the soldiers.

The same is true for us today. In the midst of the trials we are facing from a corrupt regime, we are gaining strength and courage to fight the spiritual war in which we are engaged. Americans saw the Revolution as a war pitting good against evil and relied on spiritual energy as well as military resources.

Sometimes our challenges, even our failures give us greater success in the long run. Remember, **James 1:2-3** (NKJV), “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience [or perseverance].” Perseverance won our liberty.

Let’s Keep The Light of Faithful Perseverance Burning!

³ Williams III, Robert. "Joseph Warren Martyr of Bunker Hill." *Masonic World*,

