

## 115.1 The Holy Spirit of Liberty

I had an elder tell me that our form of government is unimportant. He said that we can serve God under Communism or in a Republic. Technically, he is correct. Christians in China resist Communist tyranny every week and, at significant risk to their lives, conduct underground worship services.

There is a more profound thought we should pursue. Listen to these two verses by the apostle Paul.

**<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.<sup>1</sup>**

**<sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.<sup>2</sup>**

The Spirit of God is one of liberty, not confinement. He intends to bring freedom to whomever He indwells. In **Luke 4**, Jesus spoke in the synagogue and fulfilled the messianic prophecy of liberty in **Isaiah 61**. It begins with:

**“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;**

Why will traditionalists limit His freedom to the enslavement of sin? Jesus and the Holy Spirit enable us to gain independence from the entanglements of sin, but that liberty doesn't end there, it is just beginning. When we are free from the condemnation of sin, we can expand that freedom into other areas of life.

Too many Christians buy into the compartmentalization philosophy. Instead of taking life as a whole, they break it down into compartments and include God in some sections while excluding Him from others. They even apply the thinking to our physical creation, saying, “We are spirits living in physical bodies. One day we will be set free.” They forget that God created Adam's body and spirit and said it was good. We will also have a new and glorified body in the resurrection. We won't go through eternity as bodiless spirits.

God is not limited to our arbitrary life departments, He is the God of all. His liberty is not limited to the sin category. He wants us to be free in every arena of life. If not, why did He provide the Hebrews with the means to escape Egyptian bondage? Why did He return the Jews to Israel from Babylon? If liberty is unimportant and people can serve Him fully under oppressive governments, He should have left the Hebrews under Pharaoh's tyranny.

Our forefathers and mothers understood that the nation's self-government begins with people's ability to self-govern themselves. To govern ourselves, we must be “moral and religious people,” self-government is impossible for anything less. Moral and religious people learn self-control (self-governance) and depend on God to answer life's challenges. **James Madison** wrote:

We have staked the whole of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the commandments of God.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)

**Patrick Henry** stated, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He declared at another time, "Bad men cannot make good citizens. It is impossible that a nation of infidels or idolaters should be a nation of free men. It is when a people forget God that tyrants forge their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom." This is why we must be self-governing.

The US is responsible for more mission efforts than any country in history. Americans enjoy freedom and want to share it with the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Freedom always begins with the presence of the Spirit in the gospel and spreads to other areas of life. This is why Marxists have shut down churches and forced them into hiding. This is why you, Christians, are a threat to their tyranny.

There has always been a waiting period for liberty when people are enslaved. God let Joseph stay in prison for several years before his rise to power. The Hebrews remained in Egypt for over 400 years, and their descendants in Babylon for seventy. The American colonies did not readily gain their independence and liberty, they endured years of the king's intolerable acts before "the shot heard 'round the world."

Immoral and irreligious people without God cannot maintain the liberty America has known. This liberty requires the presence of the Lord. **William Penn** made it clear when he wrote:

"If thou wouldst rule well, thou must rule for God, and to do that, thou must be ruled by him...Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants."

We applaud the "Spirit of 1776." This was more than a patriotic attitude that swept the land, it was the Spirit of our God who brings liberty wherever He goes. Through His providence, He led America to victory and the freedom many of us long for today.

God brought liberty to people in captivity in the Bible and to Americans who devoted themselves to Him. If He did it then, He can do it now. We must let the Spirit of God rule our lives "for ourselves and our posterity." We will not gain and maintain liberty without God.

Keep The Light *of the Holy Spirit of Liberty* Burning!

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