

## Speaking Out

Recently, I read on “X” (formerly known as Twitter) that Canadian law now allows their judges to give life sentences for “speech crimes.” They would define speaking out against sinful activities such as the LGBTQ+ undertakings as a speech crime. Faithful pastors and preachers could find themselves in jail until they die! Unless things dramatically change in America, this insanity will be inserted here to silence believers from speaking the truth.

Freedom of speech, a cornerstone of a free republic, is not merely a right but a vital one. It is a beacon of our liberty, enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution, a testament to our unalienable, God-given right to speak. However, we have felt the tightening grip of restrictions on our speech. Let us not forget the bravery of our ancestors, who fearlessly voiced their thoughts and opinions.

On March 23, 1775, in the heart of Richmond, Virginia, Patrick Henry delivered a momentous speech that would echo through the annals of American history. This was less than a month before Paul Revere's legendary ride from Boston, and the battles of Lexington and Concord.

The Second Virginia Convention, sensing the mounting tensions with Britain, had shifted its meeting from the House of Burgesses to St. John's Church in Richmond. The British parliament imposed a series of oppressive actions on the colonies, including the Currency Act (1764), Sugar Act (1764), Stamp Act (1765), Quartering Act (1765), Declaratory Act (1766), Townshend Act (1767), Tea Act (1773), Boston Port Act (1774), Justice Act (1774), Massachusetts Government Act (1774), Quartering Act (1774), Quebec Act (1774), and Proclamation of Rebellion (1775).

The American colonists, pushed to their limits by the overreaching British government, endured immense hardships. The tension was extensive. Patrick Henry famously declared in his impassioned speech, “Give me liberty, or give me death.” But his words went beyond this classic line. As I read a significant portion of his speech, please note his fervor and frequent Bible references. Our ancestors, he believed, were fighting a God-ordained battle for liberty. Among the powerful statements he made that day were these:

This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. ...

Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren, till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? ...

Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation - the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission?

... They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer on the subject? Nothing. ...

Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament.

Our petitions have been slighted; ... our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne. In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope.

If we wish to be free ... if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!

Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of the means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us.

The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. ... There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable - and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come!

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, "Peace! Peace!" - but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

For years, I did not realize that our forefathers presented many peaceful overtures to the King to avoid conflict. The Virginia legislature was divided over what to do about British oppression. Some wanted to keep trying peacefully, hoping Britain would suddenly see the light and lift its sanctions. Patrick Henry and others were astute enough to know that the King was not about to ease up. He was punishing Boston, and it would not be long before he came to Virginia. The final resort was self-defense, as the British brought their military to America to intimidate the colonies.

No one is calling for an armed insurrection today. However, we must courageously use every peaceful means at our disposal. Words are powerful. We must keep speaking the truth with one another and research what the MSM and political leaders tell us. We must resist the evil they represent. If good people do nothing, evil will envelop us.

When God commissioned Joshua to replace Moses and lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, Moses told him, “<sup>8</sup>And the LORD, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”<sup>1</sup> We must take these words to heart and apply them today. We cannot sit idly by and consent to the evil ensnaring our nation. We must exercise our unalienable right to free speech.

Keep The Light *of Speaking Out Against Evil* Burning!  
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<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 31:8 (NKJV)