

The Walk To Liberty

Ps 119:44-45

44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

*45 And I **will walk at liberty**: for I seek thy precepts.*

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

- I. The American Revolution and Independence
 - A. Intro to revolution
 1. 245 years ago, the founding fathers of this nation signed a petition dated July 4, 1776, **[image: declaration]** and sent it to King George III in England, protesting Great Britain's overbearing ways, and declared the time had come to separate the

American colonies from the rule of Great Britain.

2. With that document, they gave notice of their independence and intent to be recognized as separate and sovereign nation, no longer part of Great Britain.
- B. Seeing themselves as Americans
1. ¹Prior to recent events, the colonists had considered themselves part of the British Empire.
 2. As recent as 1756 when France and Great Britain entered into a major war for control of the North American territories, called the Seven-Years War, or the French-Indiana War, colonial militiamen fought side-by-side regular British soldiers.
 3. In fact, it was the young **[image: Washington as British soldier]** Colonel George Washington, who fighting as a British soldier, ended up surrendering his

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all references to this history are from: Faragher, John, et al., *Out of Many, a History of the American People, Volume I*, Pearson|Prentice Hall, NJ, 5th ed., 2008.p. 128-145.

British troops in defeat to the French in their first battle between Great Britain and France.

4. But through the Seven-Years War, the American Colonists began to see themselves as separate from Great Britain.
5. The multitude of British soldiers had to be housed somewhere, and the colonists were forced to quarter them. The colonists saw up close the violence, profanity, and lewdness of the soldiers, and worried about themselves becoming slaves to the British after helping them in the war.
6. They also saw how British did not value the colonist's role they played in the recent military victory, and they even resorted to name-calling, using the derogatory term, "Yankees."
7. And in time, after unjust taxation, and the British government's rigid enforcement without any input from the colonists, the colonists began to see themselves from a

“continental” perspective and began to use the term “American” to distinguish themselves from British.

8. Colonial newspapers began widely using those words, Continental, and American, to describe themselves, and the idea became popular as the colonists realized that we were indeed a separate people.

c. Clashes and Taxes

1. Clashes regularly began to erupt between British soldiers and colonists.
2. In March 5, 1770, after a riot developed between the two, seven British soldiers fired into a crowd of colonists [**image: Boston Massacre**], and five men fell dead and six more were wounded, with two of them dying later.
3. This event later became known as the Boston Massacre and Paul Revere published prints of a drawing depicting the scene of the

massacre. These prints were hung in many homes to inspire patriots.

4. Then the Tea Act was passed by British Parliament in 1773, and in response, on December 16, 1773, **[image: Bostonteaparty]** the colonists dumped 45 tons of British tea (at a modern cost of almost \$25,000) into the Boston Harbor, in an act of protest later known as the Boston Tea Party.
5. British Parliament responded with six acts, known by Americans as the Intolerable Acts:
 - a. they prohibited the loading or unloading of ships in Boston Harbor,
 - b. they annulled the Massachusetts colonial charter,
 - c. they restricted town meetings in Boston;
 - d. they ended Massachusetts self-rule;

- e. they stated that British officials were no longer accountable to any colonial court; and
 - f. private property could be commandeered by British soldiers for housing; and
 - g. that British government rule was enforced in all lands won from the French in the recent war.
6. Things looked bleak for the colonists after these Parliamentary Acts were passed.
- D. Continental Congress
- 1. That is when in September 1774, the First Continental Congress met and began to see themselves as a separate political entity standing against the British Empire.
 - 2. The Congress had a rough start as one of the delegates moved that the session open with prayer. John Adams reflected that someone objected because of “divided religious sentiments” among them.

3. But they put aside differences, and a local clergyman quoted from Psalm 35 in the opening prayer, which reads:

Ps 35:1-9

1 Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

2 Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.

3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

4 Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.

5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.

6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

7 For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they

have digged for my soul.

8 Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

4. Following this prayer, the First Continental Congress produced a group of delegates who were resolved to unify against the enemy of the American community.
5. Among those delegates were important leaders like Samuel and John Adams, Patrick Henry and George Washington.
- E. Declare Independence
1. In the ensuing two years, violent conflict and military battles took place between Americans and British so on June 7, 1776, a motion for independence was first introduced, and the final vote taken on July 2, 1776, with 12 colonies in favor of

- independence with New York abstaining from the vote.
2. Thomas Jefferson was selected to write the draft a declaration of American independence.
 3. It is interesting to note that the first draft included a long passage condemning slavery, but in trying to find a quick and cautious consensus among all colonies, that part was removed.
 4. But it retained language that all colonies could agree on:
 - a. **“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”**
 5. Although they did not quote a Bible verse in the document, the basis of their petition was their biblical understanding of what they considered self-evident truths:

- a. **First**, we were created equal, and
- b. **Second** our creator gave all people certain rights that could not be removed by man, like the right to life, liberty, and pursuing happiness.
- c. The document went on to state that it was government's role to secure these rights, but because the British government had destroyed those rights, it was now time to separate from them and form a new government that would secure those rights.
- F. Fight for independence
 - 1. That Declaration of Independence was signed July 4, 1776, 245 years ago today.
 - 2. But the signers of the declaration did not expect the document would immediately produce independence. They knew it would be seen as treason and would produce war. And it did. 5 years of war in fact.
 - 3. And after those 5 years, the British accepted defeat when their General Lord

Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19, 1781.

4. An estimated 6,800 Americans were killed in action and about 6,100 wounded, and more than 20,000 had been taken prisoner.²
 5. An estimated 24,000-25,000 British casualties are estimated, including battle deaths, and deaths from injuries and disease, those taken prisoner, and those who remained missing.³
 6. From the war emerged a group of 13 colonies calling themselves the United States of America.
- II. The scriptures declare
- A. Liberty is a biblical principle
 1. As citizens of the USA, we must remember that the freedoms that we enjoy were hard fought for, and the reason the founding fathers decided to fight for them, was

² <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/american-revolution-faqs>

³ <https://historyofmassachusetts.org/british-soldiers-revolutionary-war/>

because they recognized that God had created all mankind as equal and gave them certain liberties simply because they were part of His creation.

2. And yes, our nation has made regrettable and tragic mistakes throughout the years by withholding those liberties from different groups, but it was that high ideal that guided the founding fathers to begin the process of pursuing it, and keeps us walking toward it.
3. Liberty is a biblical idea that God instituted among the newly freed Hebrew slaves in their 12 tribes called Israel:
Lev 25:10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.
4. God instituted the Year of Jubilee to be observed to recalibrate the nation every

50 years to make sure that liberty was restored to all.

5. You see it is the tendency of man, when they walk away from God's law, to find themselves in bondage again.

B. Walk at liberty

1. Israel recognized that liberty was the focus of God's law, but to obtain it required a continual walk toward it:

Ps 119:44-45

44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

*45 And I will **walk at liberty**: for I seek thy precepts.*

2. And yes, Israel missed the mark many times, but the principle of liberty is in the Word for us to walk in.
3. I'm preaching to you today about **The Walk to Liberty**. As we studied in the history of the American Revolution to independence,

it has truly been a walk to liberty, not a run to it.

- c. The Savior proclaimed liberty
- 1. And for Israel, it wasn't until Israel's Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ came, picked up that Word that promises liberty, and then declared it fulfilled, that liberty finally had a fighting chance in God's creation.

Luke 4:16-21

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

*17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **[Isaiah 61:1-2]***

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the **poor**; he hath sent me to heal the **brokenhearted**, to preach deliverance to*

*the **captives**, and recovering of sight to the **blind**, to **set at liberty** them that are **bruised**,*

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

*21 And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.***

2. Jesus is speaking in our ears and minds and hearts, that liberty is for us.
 3. And Jesus was a true patriot of liberty because He sacrificed His life to give us that liberty.
- D. Liberty from sin
1. And the liberty Jesus proclaimed was not just for the pursuit of happiness. The kind of liberty Jesus proclaimed was a freedom

from the bondage of sin that is behind all of the oppressions that mankind faces.

2. When you think of all the oppressions mankind has faced: high crime rates, violence, slavery, prejudices, injustice, etc., each of these have as a root cause, bondage to sin.

3. That is the liberty Jesus died to set us free from. As Paul wrote:

Rom 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

4. God not only has liberty and justice for all, but a glorious liberty for all of the children of God.

5. That **glorious liberty comes when we are delivered from the bondage to sin.** And once He delivers us, He doesn't want us to get tangled up in that sin again. It is **liberty to stay away from sin:**

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty

wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

6. Walk to liberty, and then stand in liberty.
7. Those who have been entangled with a yoke of bondage know what it means to lack liberty.
8. An addition to drugs and alcohol weaves its tangled web of bondage.
9. An addition to sexual sins leaves behind many victims in a web of bondage, including the perpetrator.
10. An addition to raging anger does the same, leaving many tangled in bondage.
11. Whatever kind of sin you can name, it leaves participants in a web of bondage and death.
12. I'm preaching about the Walk to Liberty, well there are also **motions of sin** that take a person down a progressively destructive path of bondage and death:

James 1:14-15

14 But every man is [3] tempted, when he is [1] drawn away of his own lust, and [2] enticed.

15 Then when [4] lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth [5] sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth [6] death.

13. So the real story of Independence Day is finding liberty from the motions of sin that brings forth bondage and death.

14. And I want to encourage someone who is being held in bondage to take a walk, walk back from the motions of sins and take the Walk to Liberty today.

E. Steps to liberty

1. You see, the walk to liberty that the colonists made involved three major steps.

2. **First**, the colonists needed to see themselves as separate from the British.

When they began to see themselves as Americans, it started them on a path to separate.

3. **Second**, they began to see the evils of that empire that ignited in them a desire to turn away from those evils. Turning away from that evil was an important step in helping them finally decide just how important separation was.
 4. And **third**, they made a declaration for freedom that they were willing to fight for. And that document of declaration produced a **spirit of liberty** that gave them the power to fight for what they had had been written in that declaration. And they fought until they won and found the liberty they had fought for.
- III. Conclusion: steps to freedom from sin
1. That is a similar process we need to make as we take our walk to liberty.
 2. **First**, we must see ourselves as different from the world. "I'm not like everyone else." I'm not going to copy the sinful ways of everyone I've been hanging around. I

decided I want to belong to God not the world. That is a step of faith that begins your walk to liberty.

3. **Second**, turning away from the evil of the world you've lived in is necessary. We call that repentance. When you see how much bondage that evil and sin has caused, you must decide to turn your back on it and walk away from it. Baptism is part of repentance, because repentance and baptism in Jesus' name brings the forgiveness to you that Jesus died to provide.
4. And **third**, trust in the written declaration of independence in the Word that promised freedom and the Spirit that brings liberty: *2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the **Spirit of the Lord** is, there is **liberty**.*
5. In the Word of God, Jesus declared the Promise of the Father, the Holy Ghost that would be poured out on individuals, giving

them the power to change from the old life of bondage, into a new life of liberty where all things are become new.

6. That comes by the power of the Holy Ghost.