

Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



THE FOURTH OF JULY

As fireworks light up the night sky and families gather to celebrate the Fourth of July, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the principles that have shaped our nation. Independence Day is more than a day of barbecues and festivities—it is a time to consider the ideals of unity, faith, and patriotism that have guided the United States through its triumphs and trials.

The words of our founding documents and national songs remind us of the deep spiritual heritage that underpins our country. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,

and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." These words, spoken daily by schoolchildren and public servants alike, affirm the central idea that our nation was built on a foundation of faith and unity.

Similarly, the lyrics of *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* echo the reverence for God and country:

*"Our fathers' God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing!"*

As we honor the freedoms won through sacrifice and determination, we must also recognize the responsibilities that come with them. Scripture teaches that a nation's strength is not merely in its military power or economic prosperity, but in the righteousness of its people. In II Chronicles 7:14, God calls His people to a path of humility and repentance:

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall
humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face,
and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear
from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will
heal their land."*

These words serve as a timeless reminder that a nation's moral compass influences its stability and success. In times of political division and societal uncertainty, they challenge Americans to seek wisdom, embrace unity, and stand firm in their faith.

President Abraham Lincoln echoed a similar sentiment in 1858 when he warned, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." His powerful statement was not merely about politics, but about the moral and spiritual foundation necessary to sustain a nation. As Americans face challenges that test their unity—whether in government, culture, or community—the call to faith and reconciliation remains as relevant as ever.

On this Fourth of July, let us celebrate not only the freedoms we enjoy but also the responsibility we bear to uphold them. May we be reminded that true liberty comes not only from government or legislation but from hearts committed to justice, truth, and the values upon which this nation was founded.

As the fireworks fade and the echoes of celebration quiet, may the spirit of patriotism and faith remain strong in the hearts of every American.

Freedom Has Never Been Free

American lives given to protect the United States of America

American Civil War: Approximately 620,000. World War II: 405,399 World War I: 116,516.

Vietnam War: 58,209.

Korean War: 36,574.

Gulf War (1990-1991): 383.

Post-9/11 Conflicts (Afghanistan and Iraq): Over 7,000.

Lives Given to Save The Entire World. 1— Jesus CHRIST... John 3:16

**"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing
by the **WORD** of God." Romans 10:17**

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The Two Woods

Christopher Kolker MD

Once upon a time, a young pastor in a country church walked along an old trail that led deep into the woods. He was troubled. His flock seemed so stale, so dead, so complacent.

But he did not seem to have the answer to get them out of the doldrums. No matter how many fiery sermons he preached, with his threats of hell and promises of heaven, they just sat there—no expressions, no “Hallelujahs”, nothing.

They always seemed to appreciate the sermons, but in a superficial way. “Nice sermon” was the most common thing said as the congregation left the church each Sunday. From there, they would go to the local restaurants for Sunday dinner and then repeat the whole thing one week later, without an ounce of change that could be seen. And so, our young pastor hiked. He needed to clear his head and think. “What’s wrong? I don’t get how these people can be so unmoved by the Gospel!”

He came across a deep forest. The tall oak trees were close together, with brush surrounding each tree. The trail got very narrow, and branches continually stuck him in the face as he struggled to get through the massive thicket of trees. Dying trees reached in vain against more vigorous, taller trees for sunlight, and the underbrush smothered the forest floor for room to root. He wondered if he would ever get through the bramble he found himself in.

But he did. Next, he came to a place where pine trees grew. These trees were spread farther apart, and you could see where fallen pine needles neatly replaced the thick undergrowth around the trees. The trail widened, and there was more than enough space to walk. Every pine seemed proud and strong.

By the grace of God, our pastor suddenly understood his congregation’s problem. “We are the oak thicket. We are too close together. We are not meant to be just in one place. We should be expanding and growing. We need to be out in the world spreading the Gospel, not just in our little church suffocating.”

Does this describe you? Do you keep your faith in the oak thicket and not spread it to grow stronger? Will you spread the Gospel by showing your faith and proclaiming the Good News?



Reaching People Around The Globe

I asked God to help me be a bold and strong witness fore him. This is how we help grow the Kingdom by witnessing with our word and actions/ it’s “talking the talk and walk.” I.

Thyssen Burges, Belgium.

Your broadcast has given me a whole new understanding that I didn’t have before. Thank you for you teaching because I have needed good and solid Bible teaching for so long. God bless you and keep you. **T. Raines, Liverpool, England**

Please pray for me to be healed from anxiety disorder and for Vince to have favor in a situation. Thank You so much, I really appreciate it! **Shelly**

I once worked with a mission group and we build a church in the jungle of South America. We had to work together. No one asked anybody else about their politics. We just did the job and took pride in it.

This is what has to happen in the world. We have to all work together for the common good. It is the work of the devil that is keeping us apart. **A. Troutman, Santa FE**



Prop Us Up Lord

A few weeks ago a friend of mine sent me a e-mail that expresses a truth needed in most all our lives. The article was written by an unknown, who said, “Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, “Lord, prop us up on our leaning side.” After hearing that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, “Well sir, you see, it’s like this, I got an old barn out back, it’s been there a long time, it’s withstood a lot of weather, it’s gone through a lot of storms, and it’s stood many years. It’s still standing, but one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn’t fall. Then I got to thinking ‘bout how much I was like that old barn.”

He continued saying, “I been around a long time, I’ve withstood a lot of life’s storms. I’ve withstood a lot of bad weather in life. I’ve withstood a lot of hard times, and I’m still standing too, but I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, ‘cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning.

It is true that sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward foul language, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn’t. Because we often time get to leaning, we too should pray, “LORD, PROP US UP ON OUR LEANING SIDE SO WE WILL STAND TALL AND STRAIGHT FOR THEE.”