**Independence Day!**

Many celebrate July 4th, Independence Day, here in the United States of America, with parades, parties, and fireworks; but do they remember why, or what they have been given; the freedom and liberty afforded them all on the sacrifices that many men gave for this country, even unto death, that they can freely live a life with liberty and the pursuit of happiness in it. Over the years many have forgotten these freedoms and desire to be in bondage again.

Independence Day for a Christian is:

First when they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior in which they are delivered from their sins and this present evil world. When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you were baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16). The fire burns off the chaff (old dead things that easily blow in the wind), cleansing the ground of our heart to be ready to receive the spiritual increase of God, to come to the knowledge of the truth where there is true independence.

And second continuing daily in the faith and liberty that we have been blessed with in Christ (Colossians 1:12-14). Knowing that our citizenship in heaven, every day in Christ should be celebrated in Spirit and in truth as Independence Day. This is the day (today) that the Lord has made, and we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Having been baptized with the Holy Spirit, we are to continue daily to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth and show us things to come (John 16:13-15). If you accept and continue in the truth, the truth will make you free; and if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed (John 8:31-36). The truth is in the Son, not in the buildings made with hands and in their traditions and doctrines with which many are brought into bondage again (Read 2 Peter 2).

So let our Father in heaven by his Holy Spirit enlighten the eyes of your understanding, as the truth is in Jesus, so that you may know the Son revealed by the Father and walk in that liberty. Sad to say, though many know Jesus, few have not so learned Christ. (Ephesians 1:18-23, Galatians 1:11-12, Galatians 1:15-16, Ephesians 4:20-24)

Remember this liberty which you have been blessed with through the sacrifice spiritually and physically of our Lord Jesus Christ, and please don’t let it slip away or take it for granted. Jesus Christ came that we might have life and life more abundantly; the thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill, and destroy what has been sown in our hearts, the word of God.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. (KJV)

Now that you have liberty, do you consider yourself independently wealthy?

I’m not talking about the outward realm of that which the world considers wealth to be, that is, abundance of money. Remember the “love of” money is the root of all evil, which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I’m talking about being independently wealthy spiritually. We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. We have been given the true riches, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ.

**Ephesians 1:2-14 (KJV)** Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: (KJV)

**Colossians 2:2-3** That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (KJV)

Knowing this we are to be independent of external circumstances, not allowing what is going on in the outward realm to affect us spiritually. Not allowing the cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches, and lusts of other things to enter in and choke the word of God that has been sown in our hearts.

Put away from you the distractions of this life and seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and become independently wealthy spiritually knowing that all that we have need of in this life here on earth will be added unto us; our Father knows have we have need of before we ask.

Cast all you care unto God through his Son Jesus Christ, who will do the caring for you and be content (content with one’s lot, one’s means though they may be the slenderest) with such things as you have, for he will never leave us nor forsake us. Remember the just shall live by faith.

Put to death the lusts of the flesh, those things of our former life before we accepted Jesus Christ (what fruit had you then in those things whereof you are now ashamed?), for the end of those things is death. For they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts (Galatians 5:24).

**Ephesians 2:2-7** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Today, are you content or are you anxious for your life? It is Independence Day today! Today is the day of salvation, now is the accepted time. Stay in today and trust that no matter what comes your way, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

**Philippians 4:6-7** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (KJV)

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (KJV)

**Philippians 4:11-13** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (KJV)

Content (G842):

 Thayer Definition:

1. sufficient for one’s self, strong enough or processing enough to need no aid or support.

 2. independent of external circumstances

 3. contented with one’s lot, with one’s means, though the slenderest

 Strong’s Definition: from G714; self complacent, that is, contented: - content

 (G714):

 Thayer definition:

 1. To be possessed of unfailing strength

a) To be strong, to suffice, to be enough

1) To defend, ward off

b) To be satisfied to be contented

Strong’s definition: be content, be enough, suffice, be sufficient

Dearly loved brethren, whatever our circumstances in this life, stand fast in the liberty with which Christ has made you free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Be content with such things as you have so that you may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. And remember godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. So Church, stay independent today in Christ. God bless and keep the faith.

Written to the Church through Charlene Giefer, Christ’s servant, your sister and fellow saint in the kingdom and righteousness of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.