

# INDEPENDENT OR DEPENDENT?

As the United States celebrates the Holiday of July 4<sup>th</sup> -- Independence Day -- we take a good look at the word "Independent." According to the Webster Dictionary -- Independent means -- "Free from the influence or control of others; Self-governing; Self-confident; Self-reliant" -- and we in the United States pride ourselves in 234 years of Independence from the British or any other foreign rule.

Independence Day is celebrated across the Nation by Patriotism, Flag Waving, Parades, Fireworks, and the joining together with family and friends for picnics and gatherings.

But, what about the other word in the title of this article -- Dependent? Again we consult the Dictionary -- Dependent means -- "Influenced or determined by something or someone else; relying on another for support or aid" -- in other words, insufficient of ourselves -- unable to cope with problems on our own.

These two words show a real contrast in meaning -- able to stand on our own two feet -- or needing help and support from another.

As Bible Believers we can be proud of our Independence from the world and the affairs of the world -- and at the same time being fully Dependent on the God of the Universe for all things -- Independent to stand firm on the Word of God, "*Be Steadfast, Unmoveable, Always Abounding in the work of the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 15:58) and yet fully Dependent on the Bible and the finished work on the Cross of Jesus Christ, "*All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is Profitable*" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

In fact, if we have the Holy Spirit within us we are assured that He will Guide, Comfort and Direct us in every matter and situation. We are assured in our Dependence that, "*HE will NEVER leave us nor forsake us*" (Hebrews 13:5) -- we are NEVER left on our own to fend for ourselves -- we are NEVER left to struggle through our problems by our own knowledge, education or strength.

While we can hold fast to our Independence for government we must admit that we are Dependent on the Triune Godhead for our very existence -- the same as the Hebrew children depended on God for their manna in the wilderness, Daniel depended on God while in the lion's den, David depended on God facing the giant, Joshua depended on God in the battle of Jericho, and Jesus himself depended on his Father God while hanging on the Cross.

Independent -- yet fully Dependent -- the life of Victory!

We are admonished to, "*Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart, and lean not on your own understanding -- in ALL your ways acknowledge Him -- and He shall direct your paths*" (Proverbs 3:5,6).

We are instructed by the Apostle Paul to, "*Stand Fast therefore in the Liberty by which Christ has made us Free, and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage*" (Galatians 5:1) -- True Independence from the things of the world, and Total Dependence on the Lord!

The Fourth of July is our Celebration of Freedom from Foreign Governments -- the day we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior is the day we Celebrate Freedom from the penalty of sin and the world.

Dependence on God = Independence from sin

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