

P.S. Where the Spirit of the Lord Is... *There Is Freedom*

On Independence Day weekend, two truths led to this message today:

- The freedom (liberty) we enjoy is a treasure to be guarded, cared for, and preserved. This is the privilege and responsibility *of each individual*.

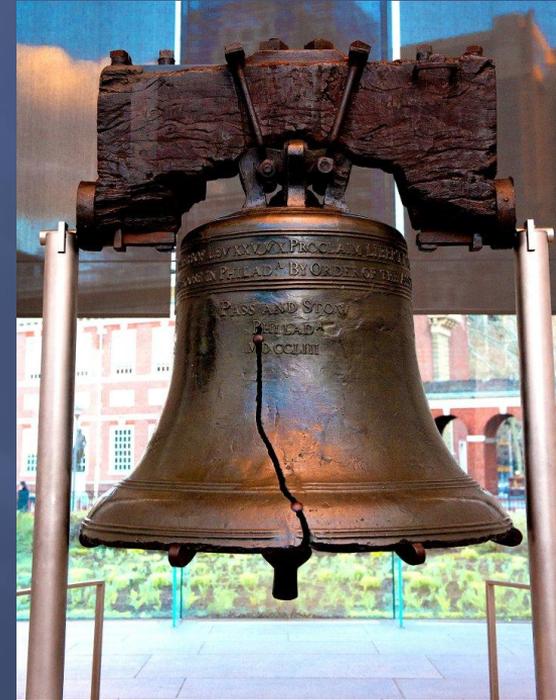


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From the Declaration of Independence:

- 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.
- That to secure these rights...

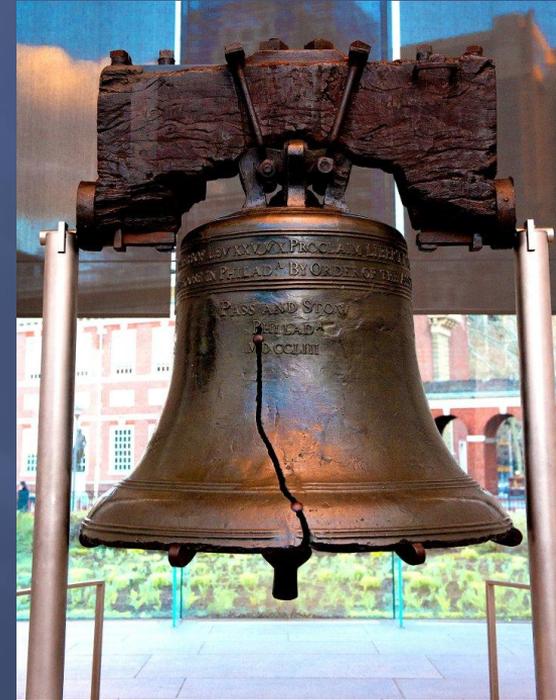


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From the Declaration of Independence:

- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new...

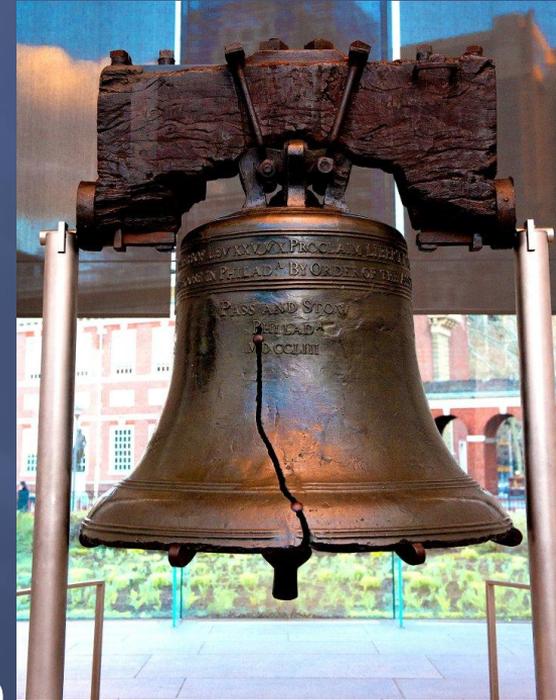


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- ...and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...” / “...it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

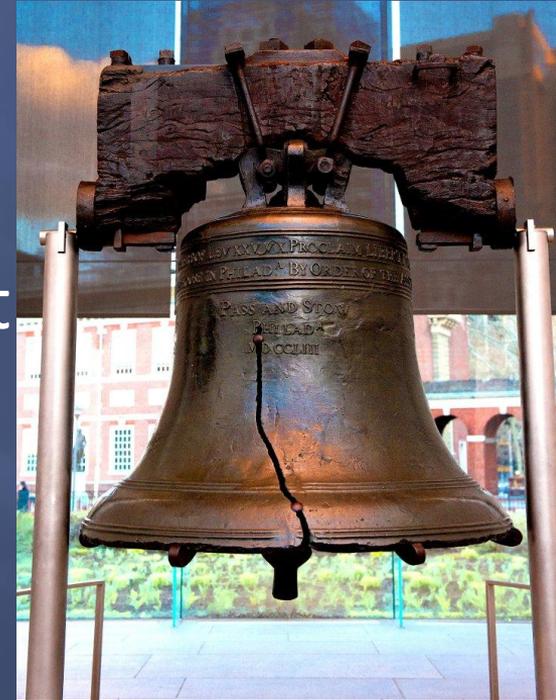


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On Independence Day weekend, two truths led to this message today:

- The freedom (liberty) we enjoy is a treasure to be guarded, cared for, and preserved. This is the privilege and responsibility *of each individual*.
- The Bible is clear: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (liberty).

II Corinthians 3:17

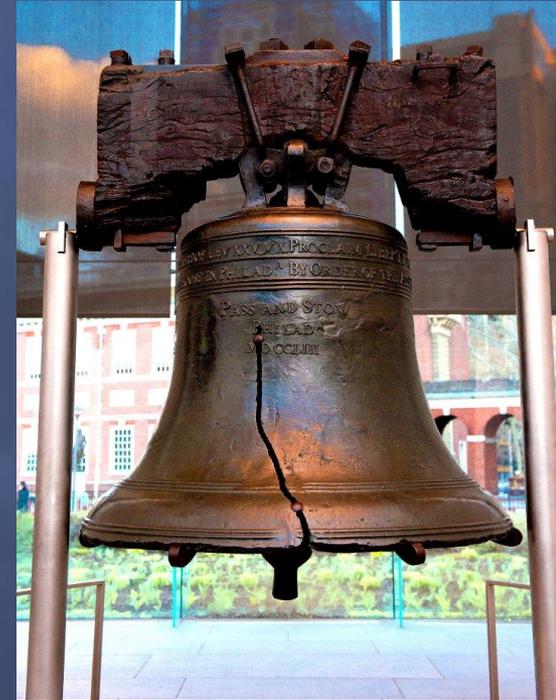


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Two Observations:

- The nation's freedom is only as safe as the individuals' freedoms are strong.
- The inner freedom of individuals is strongest when it is guided and fueled by the Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 3:17-18 – ongoing transformation



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Merv's definition of Freedom:

Freedom is neither the absence of laws, nor the permission to do anything one wants to do. Rather... Freedom is the awareness of that which is wholesome and healthy (what is righteous and holy), and the inner strength to live that, regardless of the pressures to do otherwise.

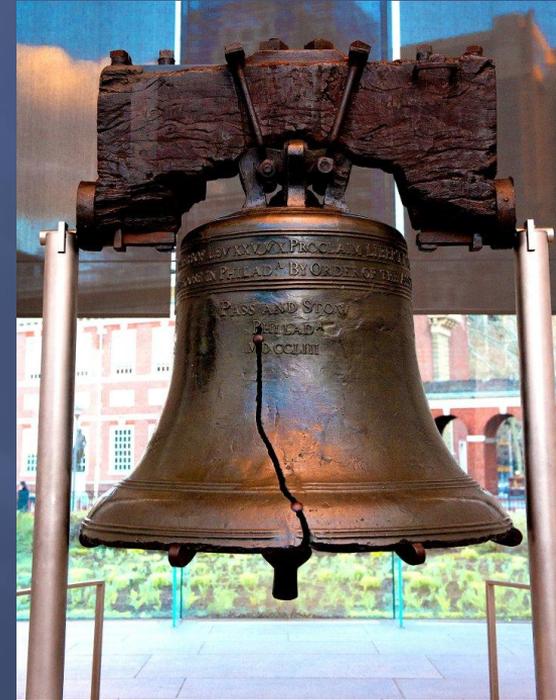


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Four Guiding Conclusions:

- Freedom is at its best...at its purest...
when it is lived out within a context of
a wholesome, God-centered purpose.
- I Corinthians 9:19
- II Peter 2:19

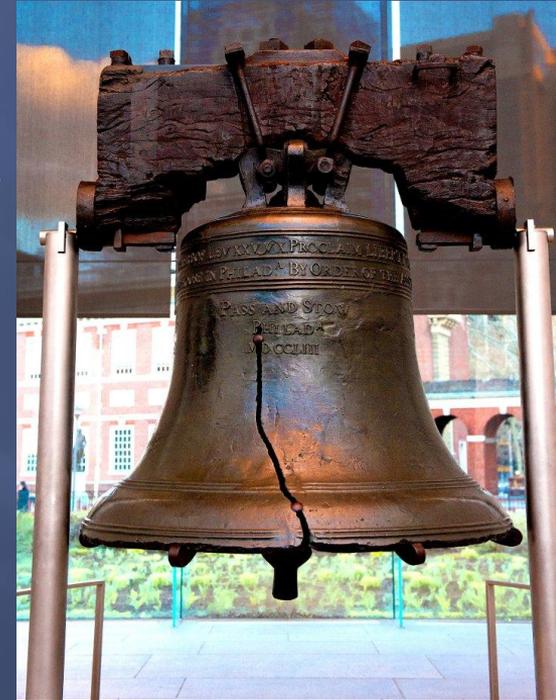


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Four Guiding Conclusions:

- Freedom is at its best...at its purest... when it is lived out within a context of a wholesome, God-centered purpose.
- Freedom may include permission, but it chooses what is right and good.
 - I Corinthians 10:23; 29
 - Galatians 5:13
 - I Peter 2:19



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Four Guiding Conclusions:

- Freedom is at its best...at its purest... when it is lived out within a context of a wholesome, God-centered purpose.
- Freedom may include permission, but it chooses what is right and good.
- Practicing freedom is the only way to protect freedom.
- Galatians 5:1; James 1:25; II Peter 2:19

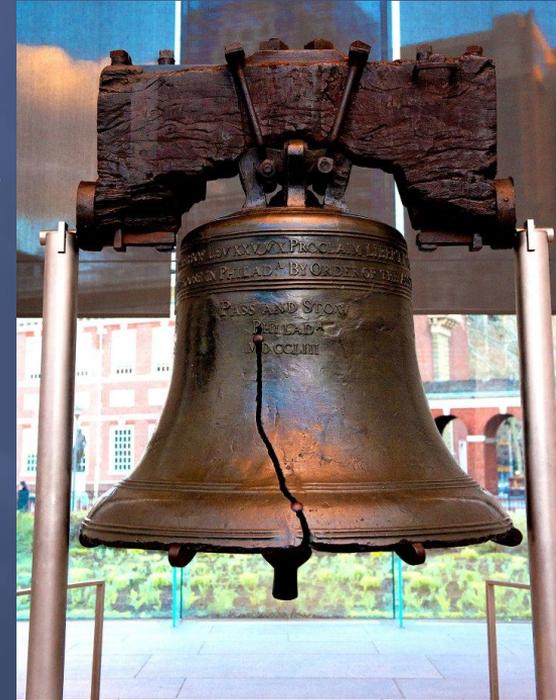


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- Practicing freedom is the only way to protect freedom.
- The Holy Spirit makes freedom possible.

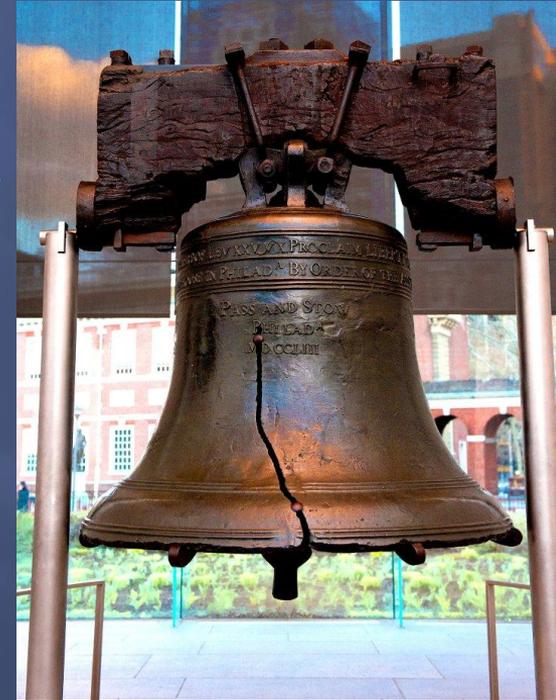


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Four Guiding Conclusions:

- The Holy Spirit makes freedom possible.
- Romans 8:2
- Acts 1:8
- II Corinthians 3:17-18

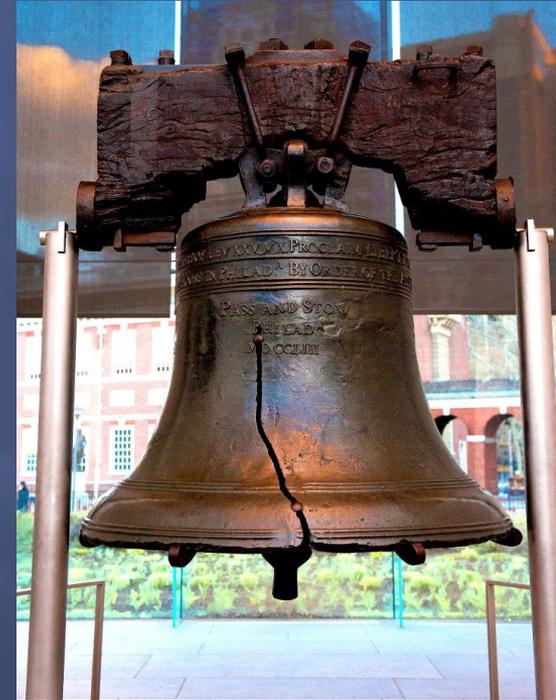


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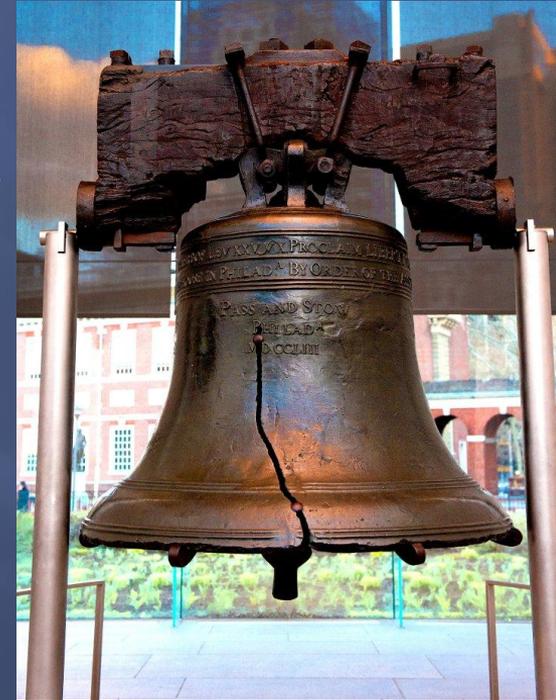


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