

from the desk of
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America's Need for God

In 1776, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, a powerful statement of the colonies' decision to become an independent nation and break ties with Great Britain. In 1941, Congress designated July 4th as a legal holiday. The spirit of July 4th should be remembered – it's a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of fireworks, and a reason to fly the American flag. It's also a time to celebrate the values, the sacrifices and the foundation that this nation was built on.

America has a long and profound history of acknowledging a dependence upon Almighty God for her existence and substance. The reliance on God has been evident through the writing and words of the country's leaders. One such quote made by Patrick Henry is well known when he said, "Give me liberty or give me death." However, the whole speech that he made is filled with numerous references to God. In that same speech he said this: "An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts, is all that is left . . . we are not weak, if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power . . . there is a God who presides over the destinies of nations . . ."

Countless others have also pointed to the fact that the new country must rely on God. Ben Franklin stated, "I have lived a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. "Our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, often spoke of his trust in the Almighty God. He once proclaimed, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming convictions that I had nowhere to go." He would later state, "I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation shall be on the Lord's side."

May this congregation, this community and this nation always remember that we must rely on God and the guidance of His word. May the inspired words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 be on our hearts. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." America's foundation truly is the Almighty God and the power of His word!

Have a safe 4th of July,
Danny