

## In The Arena of Faith - Trust (yes), AND Obey!

by Andrew R. Dickinson

I had the occasion to receive an email recently, and in my ire and umbrage forwarded immediately to my mailing list. My source is a trusted friend, one who's judgment and goodwill I believe in.

Furthermore, my motives were the very highest. I believe in the cause the email was supporting. I strongly oppose the things that the opposition is doing to undermine our nation and our very way of life.

But, that email I forwarded simply wasn't true. It was based on a falsehood. I didn't check the facts and neither did my source. In other words, I repeated a lie as though it was the truth. To make things worse, another friend read my note, thought it was a great note, and sent me a note saying that he was sending it to all of his friends. Boy, this just gets worse and worse.

This is not unlike other sins (yes, spreading rumors, unfounded or otherwise, is a sin). One small misstep turns into a rock slide. A tiny snowflake multiplies and turns into an avalanche. And, you can bet, the enemy makes the effort to maximize the damage. Sometimes reputations are ruined. Sometimes great friendships come suddenly crashing to an end. Sometimes lives are destroyed.

This brings to mind the subject of obedience. Obedience to the word of God. The Bible tells us throughout the old and new testaments of the sorrow, sickness, and death that sin has introduced into the world. We all know about it. Yet, we still sin.

Some of us flit and flutter our way through life exultant over God's unfailing love, over His grace and mercy. We rejoice in His pardon for our sins and Jesus' death on the cross. This is all good, fine and wonderful. We should rejoice, we should exalt in our great Savior. We should ever glory in what Jesus has done for us, and in the cross. We should continue to do this every day of our lives.

At the same time, there's a little more to walking with Jesus. There's that great big little word OBEY. God says, "To obey is better than to sacrifice." Paul and the other authors of the old testament tell us over and over to put off our sin, to put off concerning the old life and the works of the flesh. "Behold, all things are passed away, and all things are become new!" This is the exhortation of the Word of God.

Now for the good news. "Sin shall not have dominion over you." God does not lead us to a place where he will not provide. He does not give us a command and then leave us to figure it out for ourselves. He has given us His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. He has given us His Word, the Word of Truth. He has given us His power, the power to proclaim the truth. He has given us His armor, with which to wage war on sin and darkness. He has given us the weapon of prayer, with which to pull down strongholds and break all of the power of the enemy.

All it takes is to obey, to pick ourselves up and act on what He says in His Word. But... **We MUST Obey!**

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# THE

# JOYFUL

# NEWS

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July, 2011

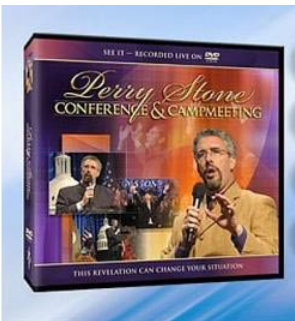
### Declaring Independence

This is one of the most patriotic months of the year for Americans. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we celebrate the birth of our great nation and a great victory over the powers of the earth which fight constantly to abolish our freedom and equality. A freedom and equality that is rare in any other part of the world, one which has been bled for by many Americans, and by Jesus Christ himself. The founders of this great land were led here and inspired by God to strive for this freedom, and it shows in that every aspect of our founding was based upon God's Word. Below we will examine an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, and one from The Bible in the Book of Romans. Upon examination we will see how much Christ has given for these, our "God given rights."

*(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, 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 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. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.*

*(From the Bible, Romans 8) <sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. <sup>3</sup> The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.*

The Blood of Jesus has been given freely that we might have everlasting independence from sin. Our life with Jesus is the greatest gift ever given, that despite our bonds of sin and death we would be made free to live forever with God in Righteousness. Without the freedoms fought so diligently for by those who have come before us the joyous news of salvation might not have reached us, along with so many others who have been touched by grace. Isn't it wonderful that Gods desire for our freedom from the oppression of sin was so vast that he sacrificed his only and beloved son Jesus Christ to free us forever.



**SUNDAY NIGHT  
BIBLE STUDY**  
6:00-7:30PM @ JOY

Please come for an exciting, spirit-filled Bible study as we join Perry Stone's Prophetic Summit on DVDs, **The Heavens Are Now Speaking**, and **Satan's Plot to Seize the Inheritance of the Saints**. Come and join us as we enter in as if we are in the conference room. Amazingly, the Holy Spirit meets us – right here in Aurora!



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**Battle Hymn of the Republic**  
Julia W. Howe, 1861

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps  
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;  
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;  
His day is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His day is marching on.

I have read a fiery Gospel writ in burnished rows of steel;  
"As ye deal with My contemners, so with you My grace shall deal";  
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel,  
Since God is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Since God is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;  
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;  
Our God is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:  
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free;  
[originally ...let us die to make men free]  
While God is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! While God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,  
He is wisdom to the mighty, He is honor to the brave;  
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of wrong His slave,  
Our God is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Our God is marching on.

# JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<b>3</b> 10:30AM Worship 6:00-7:30PM Bible Study @ JOY	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00AM Morning Bible Study @ JOY	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>																																																																																				
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<b>31</b> 10:30AM Worship 6:00-7:30PM Bible Study @ JOY		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June 2011</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August 2011</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<b>Upcoming Events:</b> August 20th Men's Meeting
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**John 8:34-38** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father."

**Birthdays**

Dennis Jones July 7<sup>th</sup>  
Rebecca Tsegaye July 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Anniversaries**

Mark & Beckie Dater July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Mike & Tasha Gonzales July 14<sup>th</sup>  
Rev Billy & Roberta Canipe July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Roger & Kathleen Langer July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Steve & Sabrina Taylor July 26<sup>th</sup>

**Read through the book of Acts**

We would like to remind and encourage everyone continue to read through the Book of Acts throughout the year. Share your stories for upcoming news letters about how God is continuing to write the Book of Acts in your Life.

**Youth Group**

The youth group is meeting every first and third Sunday of every month.  
Thank you Michael and Tasha Gonzales for leading our youth.

