

Endowed by Their Creator with Certain Unalienable Rights – Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

By Mike Lorence

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.”

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, these words continue to ring out louder than ever across our nation and around the world. It was on July 4th, 1776, that the American colonies, or British America as it was sometimes called, declared to the world their independence from Great Britain and claimed their place as the “thirteen united States of America.” The document was a clear declaration to all the people of America, and to foreign nations, their reasons for separating from Great Britain.

The Declaration of Independence may be the most important and famous political document in history as it explicitly declares in its preamble that all men were created equal and had been endowed with unalienable rights by their Creator. This statement completely contradicts the age-old practice and belief of “Divine Right” asserting certain individuals were “ordained by God” to be anointed as rulers and have absolute authority and demand complete obedience over all others within their realm.

The overwhelming majority of the world’s nations operated under the doctrine of Divine Right. It was the Age of Enlightenment at time of the writing of the Declaration of Independence, and many of the ideas embraced by Thomas Jefferson were taken from John Locke, a 17th Century English philosopher. Locke believed that all men were the creation of one Maker and therefore, we belong to God. And because we are God’s “workmanship,” no human has right to another person’s life, liberty, or property.¹ Jefferson adapted this idea and included it as an opening statement in the Declaration of Independence.

Those revolutionary concepts, once thought unthinkable, have fueled men’s dreams and desires. Yet, these concepts have never been revolutionary, because these ideals have been God’s desire for His people since the beginning of time. Men have desired life, liberty, and have pursued happiness for millennia. But many have searched in all the wrong places. Some have looked within, thinking that they can achieve it through self-awareness and self-realization. Others have looked at outside sources like social reengineering and government oversight to achieve equity for everyone. All have failed.

The ONLY source to achieve the ideals addressed within the Declaration of Independence is gain them through the Creator. It won’t come from within ourselves, or from external sources but from God. Once we look to Him, understand all He’s provided, and claim them as our own will truly achieve a life worth living, true freedom, and joy unsurpassed.

¹ Balter, S. (2025, November 9). *Locke, America, and the Naturalness of Natural Rights*. (J. Chai, Ed.) Retrieved July 2, 2026, from The Texas Orator: <https://thetexasorator.com/2025/11/09/locke-america-and-the-naturalness-of-natural-rights/>

Unalienable Rights

We're going to briefly look at the three unalienable rights listed in the Declaration of Independence, but we'll look at them from a biblical perspective. The word "unalienable" deserves a minute to understand. It means a fundamental right and therefore can't be given away or taken away. These rights aren't transferable to another and are not capable of being taken away or denied.²

If we are looking for life, liberty, or happiness coming from anyone or anything other than God, then they can be transferred, taken away, or even denied. However, whatever God promises, He is always capable of providing, and God will never take back or deny what He already given or promised to give. Isn't that comforting?

Life

The first right we'll look at is life. The first place we'll look is John 10. This is a statement from Jesus Christ during his ministry.

John 10:10b (AMP)

¹⁰ I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].

Jesus came to provide life. But not just an existence, but a life we can truly enjoy. And not only enjoy but have it in abundance. Now that's quite a promise! Has the government ever made that declaration? There's only one who can make that statement and make it happen, our lord and savior Jesus Christ. It all starts in Romans.

Roman 10:9 (KJV)

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

This is how we get eternal life. A life that can't ever be taken away. Unalienable!

Notice, that in John 10:10 that the word says, "...they **MAY** have and enjoy life." It's not a guarantee. Why? Because it doesn't automatically happen following the New Birth. We must put Jesus as lord in our thoughts and actions and live by the Word of God, but when we do, what an amazing life we can have.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (KJV)

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened [made alive] us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Because of God's great love for us, he made us alive, when were dead in our sins. From death unto life.

Proverbs 3:1-2 (KJV)

¹ My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

² Dictionary Media Group, Inc., a division of IXL Learning. (2020, July 15). Unalienable. Retrieved July 4, 2026, from Dictionary.com: <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/unalienable>

Here we are not only promised life, but a long life and peace. We need to keep God's commandments in our heart. It's not something we do lightly, but we guard them in our heart.

Proverbs 4:20-22 (KJV)

²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Now we see that as we stay our hearts on what God tells us that it's life and health. Talk about the perfect health plan! A life that is also healthy. What a promise!

Did you know that as a believer your name is written in the Book of Life?

Philippians 4:3 (KJV)

³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

It is mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will receive eternal death, while those in it will receive eternal life. It's a guarantee that only God can make.

What a wonderful life is in store for us, if we're willing to claim it. It's available. Why not grab hold of it and take it?

Liberty

The second right we'll look at is liberty. What is liberty? The freedom from slavery. Slavery can come in many different forms. It can be physical, mental, and even spiritual. Let's see what the Word of God has to say about it.

Galatians 5:1 (KJV)

¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Christ is the one who makes us free. Notice it's in past tense – he HATH made us free. At the time of our new birth, we were freed from the bondage we had been in. We are to make sure we plant our feet firmly in that liberty, otherwise we can return to the bondage which had a prior hold on us. The choice for liberty is always ours. If we don't stand fast, it will be gone.

Luke 4:17-20a (KJV)

¹⁷ And there was delivered unto him [Jesus] the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

²⁰ And he closed the book,

Jesus at the outset of his ministry, read those words from the Book of Isaiah. Notice it lays out the keys aspects of what he was to carry out. One was "to set at liberty them that are bruised." What does that mean? That word bruised is translated as broken, downtrodden, or crushed by tragedy in the Amplified Bible. Have you ever been there? Your "soul" is just crushed by

something that has happened. You feel as though you've been tossed into a deep, dark pit or well, so deep you can hardly see the light so far away. You see no way out. That's bondage in a terrible way, yet Jesus said he came to set at liberty those in that plight of life. It's available. It's a promise.

Luke 4:17-20 (KJV)

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¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

²⁰ And he closed the book,

And we can have liberty spiritually.

2 Corinthians 3:14-18 (KJV)

¹⁴ But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

¹⁵ But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

¹⁶ Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

¹⁸ But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Here it's talking about the blindness in the hearts of people not looking at the glorious accomplishment of Christ. They were spiritually blinded, unable to see what was right there in front of them. Yet when they turn to the Lord, that vail was removed. It says that where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Liberty from the spiritual blindness within men's hearts.

We have the ability to be free or at liberty for once in our lives. A release from physical, mental, and maybe most importantly, spiritual slavery or bondage. We just need to turn to the Lord. Our emancipation is there for us if we choose to accept it.

Pursuit of Happiness

The third and final right we'll look at is the pursuit of happiness. This can be understood in a multitude of ways. There are lots of things that make me happy. Some may not be good for me, or it may impede the happiness of others. We must always look at the Word of God to define our terminology. Not the world or our own understanding. We change our thinking and terminology to align with the Word of God.

Psalms 144:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

You want to really know happiness, then know that God is your Lord. There's no other way to truly achieve it. It's the only happiness that truly lasts. All others fade away. For most people, happiness is defined by the circumstances in which they find themselves. For example, you are walking along the sidewalk and find a \$20 bill. No one is around so you're happy at your new found prosperity. You're smiling and thinking of what you are going to do with it. A few steps

down the sidewalk, you step in gum that sticks to your shoe. Now you're upset because of that and your new found happiness has disappeared. Circumstantial happiness.

With God, it a permanent happiness. It can't be lost unless you allow it by forgetting all He has done for you.

Proverbs 3:13 (KJV)

¹³ Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Where are you going to find this type of wisdom and understanding? In our schools? In the government? Within ourselves? It's talking about spiritual wisdom and understanding. We get it two ways. One is from the Word of God. The other is from the manifestations of the spirit. When we live life with that type of wisdom and understanding, we'll be happy. Any other wisdom and understanding will eventually disappoint you and let you down.

Proverbs 16:20b (KJV)

²⁰ and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

Where else are you going to put your trust and not eventually be unhappy? No where. We put our full confidence in knowing God is taking care of us.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18 (AMP)

¹⁸ Where there is no vision [no revelation of God and His word], the people are unrestrained; But happy *and* blessed is he who keeps the law [of God].

We must keep God and His Word, as well as walking by the spirit in our life in order to keep God's laws or commandments. When we do, we will be both happy and blessed.

Psalms 37:4 (KJV)

⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Each of us has desires. What are your dreams? Let's delight ourselves in the Lord and see what happens. God didn't put a limit on it did He? Obviously, it goes without saying that your desires must align with God's Word, but if we're delighting ourselves in Him, where else would our desires be?

Endowed by Their Creator with Certain Unalienable Rights

We started out looking at a phrase in the Declaration of Independence that said they were "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." And we looked at three of those rights, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness from God's Word. The aspiring tone of those words can only be truly achieved spiritually. Our Founders may have understood that to some extent, but of course, they were addressing political issues and not focused on the spiritual. We must look at the spiritual if you ever want to see those rights radiate in you life. When we are born-again, we become God's property and are no longer under the citizenship of this world. We have been given a new, eternal life; we've been set at liberty from the bondage we were under; and we can achieve a permanent source for our happiness.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (AMP)

¹ And you [He made alive when you] were [spiritually] dead *and* separated from Him because of your transgressions and sins,

² in which you once walked. You were following the ways of this world [influenced by this present age], in accordance with the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit who is now at work in the disobedient [the unbelieving, who fight against the purposes of God].

³ Among these [unbelievers] we all once lived in the passions of our flesh [our behavior governed by the sinful self], indulging the desires of ^[a]human nature [without the Holy Spirit] and [the impulses] of the [sinful] mind. We were, by nature, children [under the sentence] of [God's] wrath, just like the rest [of mankind].

⁴ But God, being [so very] rich in mercy, because of His great *and* wonderful love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were [spiritually] dead *and* separated from Him because of our sins, He made us [spiritually] alive together with Christ (for by His grace—His undeserved favor and mercy—you have been saved from God's judgment).

⁶ And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed], and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, [because we are] in Christ Jesus,

⁷ [and He did this] so that in the ages to come He might [clearly] show the immeasurable *and* unsurpassed riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus [by providing for our redemption].

⁸ For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of [your] works [nor your attempts to keep the Law], so that no one will [be able to] boast *or* take credit in any way [for his salvation].

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].

So today, let us Declare our Spiritual Independence Day. Let's claim the unalienable sonship rights endowed to us by our Heavenly Father and made possible through the sacrifice of our living lord and savior Jesus Christ. Let's cast off the old nature and claim our new citizenship in the heavenlies. And let's take our rightful place seated at the God's right hand along with our brother, Jesus Christ, all accomplished by the grace of God.