

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[Pastor Gene Henderson with edits by Pastor Pier]

Do you suppose God is patriotic? If so, does He support Israel? England? The United States of America? We could name the other 170+ nations and ask the same thing: who is God for?

Two days ago, we celebrated America's 249th birthday. We flew the stars and stripes. We held parades and gave honor to those who have served us as the world's greatest military, or as police, or firefighters or EMT's. We shot off fireworks and remembered key dates in our history where we stood strong in the face of enemies bent on destroying us. Every so often we hear the representatives and senators in Congress complain about the cost of our armed forces, but as Iran will attest, we aren't kidding. We own the skies and the oceans, and every once in awhile other nations need to know that too. **Patriotically, most of us would say that all the time we need to stay that way.**

So, we know that God is not an American. That might cause you to question some things, but He isn't Chinese or Russian either. He isn't a member of any nation on this planet – of course when He was here, He was a Jew in Israel – but He laid out some rules for all humans to live by. **The nations that follow His rules, He blesses.** And that causes a big question. If it's true, why do evil leaders rise and the good suffer? **That's the big question.**

It's because humans not only receive God's blessings, **they have free will.** And, unfortunately, some don't care about God's rules at all. So, we can wave our flag and recite all the patriotic sayings, shoot off fireworks and play songs that remind us of great times. **We can – and should – remember God's hand toward us. We should NEVER fear or be ashamed of being an American.** But more than anything else, while our flag waves, while we still enjoy the freedom of being American, we should pray for our nation. 1 Timothy 2:1-4:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Welcome!

July 6th, 2025



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club

Prayer ½ hour before services

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Wednesday Bible Study – we continue our study of the Book of Ephesians.

30-Days of Prayer – the month of July. All the Assemblies of God churches throughout the United States will be joining together for 30 days of prayer in July. The prayer guides are on the table in the foyer. These will aid in praying for our church, community, State, nation, and world. Please take one and join in prayer!

Annual VBS – August 18th through the 22nd. We need volunteers. If you would like to help, please see Leah or Lori. We will be providing more information in the coming weeks.

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SERMON NOTES

OUR BATTLE OF INDEPENDENCE

TEXT: Revelation 12:17; 13:7-8

Every believer is _____ in the great army of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

We know how this war ends: at the _____, in the _____ of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-6

I. **THE _____ WAR** – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

These are wars of the _____ — I call them “soul wars” — and they bring a _____ you can’t share with anyone.

II. **A WAR OF _____** – 1 Peter 1:3-7

The Greek word for grief here suggests _____. Psalm 119:28; 1 Peter 1:8-9

God wants it to be *our* _____.

III. **A WAR OF _____**

Some battles are the result of desires for _____ that war in our members. James 4:1; Psalm 38; 51

It came from an attack by the _____, using his _____ for pleasure and self-satisfaction. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Luke 22:40

How do we _____ a good fight? Psalm 18:34

A. **First of all, we _____ to the Lord.** Psalm 70

First of all, battles are how the Lord _____ and teaches us _____ as soldiers in His army.

Second, He _____ us for we are at the very _____ of the _____, and others depend on our _____.

B. **David _____ the Lord in the battle.** Psalm 34:3; 40:16

C. **David _____ himself on the _____ of God.** Psalm 46:9; 94:18; 103:8-14; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10