



GLC Weekly

(3 July 2025)

Liberty is a Gift from GOD: Faith, Reverence, Virtue & Righteousness Necessary to Preserve

Thomas W. Jacobson, Founder, Global Life Campaign

On 4 July 2025, citizens of the United States will celebrate the 249th anniversary of the birth of our nation. The 1776 *Declaration of Independence* declares: “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” (painting is of the signing of the *Declaration* on 4 July 1776).



Thomas Jefferson, the principal architect of the *Declaration*, proclaimed in 1774: “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time: the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them” (Summary view of the Rights of British America). In other words, destroying human life will destroy liberty, and destroying liberty leads to destroying human life.

By “Life” they meant human life from the moment of its beginning to natural death.

Let’s look at the meaning of other key words. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*, the first American dictionary, defines “inalienable” as something which “cannot be legally or justly alienated or transferred to another” (as quoted in, *Fire At The Founding [FAF]*, p. 30).

Webster's 1828 defines "liberty" as:

- "Freedom from restraint . . . to the body . . . will or mind."
- "*Religious liberty*" as "the free right . . . of opinions on religious subjects, and of worshipping the Supreme Being according to the dictates of conscience, without external control."
- "*Civil liberty* is the liberty of men in a state of society . . . only abridged and restrained as is necessary and expedient for the safety and interest of the society, state or nation" (FAF, p. 33-34).

In 1775, Rev. Levi Hart explained religious liberty and bondage: "Religious liberty is the opportunity of professing and practicing *that religion* which is agreeable to our judgment and consciences, without interruption or punishment from the civil magistrate. And religious bondage or slavery, is when we may not do this without incurring the penalty of laws, and being exposed to suffer in our persons or property" (FAF, p. 26).

In 1774, Rev. Jacob Duché recognized that religious or spiritual liberty and civil liberty were also directly connected and interdependent. "I believe it will be no difficult matter to prove that (civil liberty) is as much the gift of God in Christ Jesus as (spiritual liberty), and consequently, that we are bound to stand fast in our civil as well as our spiritual freedom. . . . (L)iberty, traced to her true source, is of heavenly extraction, that divine virtue is her illustrious parent, that from eternity to eternity they have been and must be inseparable companions . . . that when man lost his virtue, he lost his liberty too" (FAF, p. 27-28).

Webster's 1828 defined "virtue" as: "Strength, bravery, valor, moral goodness . . . The practice of moral duties from sincere love to God and His laws, is virtue and religion . . . *Virtue* is nothing but voluntary obedience to truth" (FAF, p. 30-31).

The liberty that comes from God is not a "right" to do anything we desire regardless of the impact upon others. Living in true liberty, spiritual and civil, is voluntarily using our freedom to live in ways pleasing to God, in obedience to Him and all lawful authority, in moral purity and righteousness, and in loving relationship with people. Liberty is the responsible use of freedom.

"The pursuit of happiness" was understood in the context of Matthew 5:1-12. Depending on the translation, Jesus declared: "Blessed are those who" or "Happy are those who . . ." Each of the declarations can be summarized as "Blessed (Happy) are those who live in right relationship with GOD and people" – based on His standard of righteousness, not ours. No lawful law will ever prevent anyone from, or punish them for, using their liberty to pursue a right relationship with GOD or people, or stop them from speaking truth.

In each of these ways we can recognize that liberty is a "gift of God," and can only be preserved by faith in God, reverential fear of Him, virtue, and our commitment to living in right relationship with Him and one another.

PRAY that this true understanding of liberty and its Source would be restored to the American people, and to all the peoples of the earth.

With gratitude for the LORD, the sacred gift of life, and remembrance of the babies,

Thomas W. Jacobson

Founder & Executive Director, Global Life Campaign

TJacobson@GLClife.org ; www.GLClife.org ; www.GLCPublications.com

*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.*