

INDEPENDENCE FROM TYRANNY

by Bill Lembright



Our nation's founders relied on God for the wisdom to form a nation under God with liberty and justice for all. For two centuries we grew strong and became a beacon of hope to the world. Hard work was rewarded with prosperity. Plus, the first amendment of our Constitution protected our freedom of religion and freedom of speech, while the second ensured our right to bear arms to defend ourselves against dangerous enemies, both domestic and foreign.

Our foreign enemies such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are actively planning our defeat while their many brainwashed American sympathizers are weakening our nation from within. For years we were a God-fearing, moral nation, who rallied together to defeat immoral monsters and murderers around the world. But, now, our youth have been dumbed down and brainwashed to view communism (which has led to the heartless murder and subjugation of millions of innocent, well-intended citizens around the world) as the future hope of the world.

The media, along with the entertainment, the educational, legal, judicial, financial, political, military, law enforcement, and religious establishments have been heavily infiltrated by those willing to destroy our God-given hope and freedom for empty promises of a communist/socialist utopia that has brought death and slavery to unfortunate citizens wherever it has been tried.

In the face of such over-whelming odds, I recommend we BEG God for HIS help, stop watching, listening to, and reading the mainstream media which is pumping out government approved propaganda, end the modern practice of mail-in ballots (except for the handicapped and those stationed overseas), and insist on confirming voter ID. Otherwise, I fear the next several elections will be stolen, as I strongly suspect the last two were, and you can kiss our independence from tyranny goodbye!



Bible Bites Devotionals

by Amir Tsarfati & Barry Stagner



What was it that Jesus asked Peter to do in order to demonstrate his love towards Him? Serve My people. Feed My sheep. The ultimate way and token of love towards God is by the way we serve, and feed, and take care of one another. It's not about being ministers and then becoming the object of being cared for and served. It's about being ministers of the Gospel by ways of serving others, caring for others, and feeding others. And Peter got it. Peter understood it, and Peter was then and there commissioned by Jesus. From that moment on, the life of Peter completely changed. He had to be broken. He had to be empty in order to be used by God. And that, of



course, my brothers and sisters, is the secret for a real good way to abide in Him. To come to the end of ourselves, to come to the end of our pride, our arrogance, our wishes, and our desires, and to present ourselves as living sacrifices before Him. And when we cast our ways unto Him, when we cast our will before Him, then He will prepare our ways and our steps.

The restoration of Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is one of the most poignant moments recorded in the New Testament. It reminds us of the grace of God and the Lord's desire and willingness to restore and use people who have made huge mistakes.

Peter's three denials of the Lord were more than a momentary failure. They were an exposure to Peter, and us, of someone being in the flesh. You see Peter's denials were the exact opposite of what he said of himself.

Mark 14:27-31:

Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be."

Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

There is no question that Peter and the others were sincere in their proclamations, but neither is there any question that these proclamations were of the flesh and untrue. If we carefully read what Mark records, we can see that, having foretold of the stumble of the twelve, Jesus mentioned the very place where the restoration of the one who was the most vocal about His commitment was to take place. He said, "After I have been raised I will go before you to Galilee." That is the very place Peter was restored.

This is what makes this story so poignant. Peter's three denials were known by the Lord when Peter was chosen to be one of the twelve. The Lord knew Peter's personal-

ity. He knew Peter's outspokenness. He knew Peter's pride and, even, that he would make an arrogant statement against the other disciples that "they" might stumble, but he wouldn't. Matthew 16:24-25:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Like Peter, sometimes we have trouble with the "deny self" thing, and, yet, also like Peter, the Lord chose and called us knowing we'd struggle. Our denials of the Lord may not be written down anywhere and they may not be as vehement and visible as Peter's, but they are known by the Lord nonetheless.

Maybe you have gone through a season lately where your words and your walk aren't lining up. Maybe you've made some decisions that are denials of who you are in Christ, and the flesh has taken over your decisions and actions for a time. Remember, the Lord knew about this time when He called you to follow Him, just as He did with Peter. And, just as He did with Peter, He wants to restore and use you.

The restoration of Peter on the shores of the Galilee was a painful moment for him as the Lord asked him three times if he loved Him. The first time, He dealt with Peter's pridefulness when He asked him; "Do you love me more than these?" The second time, Jesus simply asked, "Do you love me?" John 21:17:

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Peter's denials led to Peter's brokenness, and Peter's brokenness led to Peter's usefulness. Don't let the devil rob you by deceiving you into thinking the Lord doesn't want to have anything more to do with you. He knew all about us when He saved us and nothing we do is a surprise to Him.

Maybe it's time for some to have their Sea of Galilee moment and get back to being who Jesus died to make them. He is ready and willing to restore your usefulness, but it is going to require brokenness to do so. Remember, post-restoration Peter was a powerful, Christ-proclaiming Peter. Pride had died, arrogant claims were silenced, and a man greatly used by God was the result. And it was because of one simple thing – one who is forgiven much, loves much.

Nehemiah 9:16-17:

"But they and our fathers acted proudly, hardened their necks, and did not heed Your commandments. They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them."

For any who have refused to obey and not heeded God's word, He is the unchanging God. This means He is ready to pardon, is gracious and merciful, and has not forsaken you. Have your Sea of Galilee moment today!

Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus,

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WHILE WAITING FOR HIS WIFE TO GET READY

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Who was the most business-savvy woman in the Bible?
Don't know. Who?
Pharaoh's daughter.
She went to the bank of The Nile and pulled out a little prophet.