

# Think on These Things

Reverend Frank I. Williams  
Are you ready for the Word!

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”  
2 Corinthians 3:17

Have you ever wondered why God created humans beings and chose to give us freewill? Think about it for a moment. I believe He must have intended for us to experience love. Without choice genuine love is not possible; so He gave us the ability to experience the freedom to choose. With this ability came the possibility of experiencing both good and evil, to choose to hate or to love, and to choose to violate God’s will and standards or to choose to obey. Liberty has its benefits and its liabilities.

What a risk God took and at the same time what a love God demonstrated in making us all free agents. Being free agents allows us to become self-sufficient. Think of a child who becomes more and more self-sufficient as he or she matures into adulthood and is able to maximize their self-intentions and be fully independent. Freedom is in our DNA. Is it any wonder that the U.S. Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [persons] 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.”

The Jamaican National Anthem states, “Eternal Father bless our land, guard us with Thy Mighty Hand, keep us free from evil powers, be our light through countless hours.” The Trinidad and Tobago National Anthem states, “Forged from the love of liberty, in the fires of hope and prayer, With boundless faith in our destiny we solemnly declare.” The St. Kitts and Nevis National Anthem states, “As stalwarts we stand, for justice and liberty, with wisdom and truth we will serve and honour Thee. No sword nor spear can conquer, for God will sure defend.” On the global level we have seen the

historical progress of countries moving toward freedom and independence, and God has been a part of that journey. It has been a bloody and brutal journey, but none-the-less freedom is in humanity’s DNA. Freedom from enslavement, freedom from oppressive systems, freedom from tyranny. It is in our DNA because God put it there; and when independence was achieved, nations knew that it was more than just the battle that made it possible, it was God who made it possible and so they declared this in their national songs, declarations, and systems of government.

After independence the next step is the formation of a democratic system that can support the individual freedoms of its citizens, but at the same time keep the system itself free from the propensity for human corruption. This difficult task is accomplished primarily by the laws that govern, and the prayers that can keep our hearts reminded that these systems are our attempt to honor Him who gave us liberty in the first place.

However, I have seen a progression that is a cause for concern. That is, the further along the path of freedom and liberty a nation travels, and the more educated and affluent its citizens become, the easier it is to forget its reliance on God as a part of this system. That it is God who will “bless our land,” that it is God who keeps “us free from evil powers,” that it is in

the “fires of hope and prayer” and in the “wisdom of truth” that we as sovereign nations were forged to become, as the U.S. puts it, “one nation under God.” When we forget these vital truths, that our liberties are from God and to Him we are ultimately accountable for how we have exercised the gift of freewill, we increase the potential for “evil powers” to invade our systems, our communities, and our families. Therefore, we should not pursue freedom without faith, autonomy without accountability, or liberty without limitations. It is our faith in God, our systems of accountability, and the appropriate limitations of our liberties for the greater good that gives us the balance between total independence and a healthy dependence on God.

I like the way the American Black National Anthem puts it, “God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way; Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.”

May we always give thanks to God, and never forget His grace and His love that emancipates us to become better people, and hopefully better nations. Until next time, walk good my friends, and think on these things.

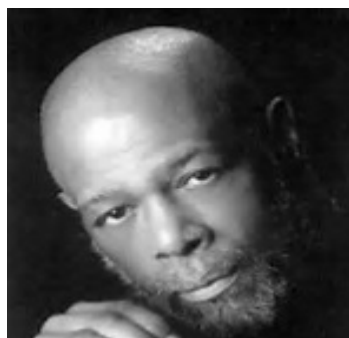
## Spiritually Speaking

By James Washington

As someone who has come to Christ as hopefully a mature adult, I’m often challenged from time to time as ministers and bible study leaders and others of faith, talk about the process of becoming a mature Christian. The challenge is in knowing what it means to mature as a person and applying some of those same principles to the maturation process as it relates to faith and knowledge. Faith as a concept is pretty easy to understand. The knowledge I’m speaking about accompanies the experience of knowing God’s word. As such, just like a mature adult, your behavior starts to be dictated by your experience and your knowledge. In other words, your decisions are affected and guided by what you know, what you’ve been through. For the mature Christian, your faith is easily expressed in words. However, your deeds, your actions now have parameters set in stone due to your experiences of faith. So the more you know about God’s word and God’s will, the more responsive you become in what you do, don’t do, say, don’t say etc. Forgiveness for instance, is an example of what I’m talking about. The more you accept the truth of Christ in your life, the more mandatory it becomes to forgive those who have in some way ‘trespassed’ against you. You see a mature Christian knows if you don’t

forgive your enemies, God will not forgive you. How dare you not at least undertake the notion of forgiveness when Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice so we all could be forgiven!

Some people refer to this as knowing



that you know that you know. It is a process however. It does take time. Maturity requires proof of action and it is this action that I’m saying challenges me more often than not. It is not always easy to do the right thing. But for the mature Christian, it is purely a matter of knowledge that easily lets you know what the right thing is. It’s what you’re supposed to do in all situations and circumstances. The more mature you become in your faith, the more evident it becomes in your behavior and hopefully, prayerfully also in your attitude. However, I think you pass the real test when your maturity readily surfaces in

what you think. The thought process of the mature Christian is where I find myself these days. I guess you can say I am now a proponent of ‘you are that you think.’ I believe faith does move mountains. And as I start to move

mine, I’ll be living proof of what they say about mustard seeds. All I can say is I’m working on it. Advisedly, you should too. May God bless and keep you always.

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