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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

7-1-2020

In Dependence Day

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The Main Thing Devotional: In Dependence Day

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."- Exodus 14:13-14

When we accept our weakness, that is when God will reveal His strength. Growing up, and admittedly even as an adult, one of the most exciting things I enjoy watching are fireworks. This nocturnal art performance is able to bring a dark and dreary sky to life by filling it with all shades of color and light. One of the greatest firework displays happen in the Nation's capital in celebration of Independence Day, a day when we commemorate our country becoming an independent nation. In Exodus chapter 14, God frees His people from the rule of Egypt and seeks to create a new nation unlike any other in history; a nation fully dependent on Him. At this point in history, God's people had been enslaved for 400 years in Egypt. I can only imagine how discouraged and defeated they must have felt - worse still, they probably felt as though God had forgotten about them. But the Bible says, God heard their cry! (Exodus 3:7) Even in their distress and disbelief, God never forgot about them. Moses led God's people out of Egypt, but they found themselves trapped; the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them. What do you do when God's ways lead to an apparent dead end?

In the scripture text above, the verb "to see" appears a total of three times, feel free to count them for yourself. Scholars believe that this verbal repetition is an earnest reminder that victory through adversity can only be experienced through the eyes of faith. In other words, for full freedom to be experienced by the Israelites, it will require full dependence on God.

As we focus on Independence Day this weekend, may we not forget that none of us are truly independent from God or those God has called us to serve. No matter how successful we become, how many followers we have on Instagram, or how large our retirement account may be; true independence can only be discovered through our trusting dependence on God. Whatever challenges you may be facing right now, let your sense of weakness lead you to depend on God's strength. In doing so God promises, *"...the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you..."*

Reflection

What battles has God fought for you lately that you can thank Him for? What challenges are you facing right now that you need God to fight the battle for? Write down each challenge on a piece of paper and through the eyes of faith write next to each challenge – *I will see you no more, forever!*

Prayer

God, thank you for promising to fight my battles. When my circumstances seem overwhelming, give me the eyes of faith to see your Salvation. Remove my fears and replace it with your steadfast grace, because I seek to experience the promise of your everlasting peace. Grant me the strength I need to live my life in dependence on You!

NEWS AND RESOURCES

- We are excited to welcome this year's new Assistant Chaplain, Michael Baranda. Michael is a recent graduate and began his first day in the Chaplain's Office on July 1st. The Assistant Chaplain serves in significant ways to nurture and equip the spiritual lives of our students. An official email will be sent out next week welcoming Michael to our ministry team.
- [Watch](#) the recorded discussion, "Race, Righteousness, and Adventist Heritage." Presenters: Joseph Khabbaz, vice president for spiritual life; Anna Bennett, associate chaplain; Reginald Horton, '91, adjunct professor, School of Religion; Tisha Looby, '10, associate dean; Michael Looby, '09; and Kevin Burton, instructor, History and Political Studies Department.
- Share your prayer requests or praises with us via text message using your mobile phone.
- While we cannot meet in person because of social distancing restrictions, we encourage you to make an appointment to **talk online** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or desiring to grow spiritually.

Every blessing,

Joseph Khabbaz