

# *In Thanksgiving for Freedom on July 4<sup>th</sup>*

## **America The Beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
GOD shed His Grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern impassion'd stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
GOD mend thine ev'ry flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law! <sup>1</sup>

## **PSALM 34:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>The Angel of The LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

<sup>8</sup>O taste and see that The LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.

<sup>9</sup>O fear The LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him. <sup>2</sup>

## **GALATIANS 5:13-14**

<sup>13</sup>For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

<sup>14</sup>For all The Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>3</sup>

## **The Freedom of Faith & Forgiveness**

“According to The Gospel, freedom is not achievement but gift. Freedom is not license but radical obedience to GOD’s liberating Law of Love. Let us give thanks for the gifts of freedom we have received and, trusting in GOD as did our nation’s Founders, let us seek to share them as gifts with all who are still enslaved by political oppression, social or economic injustice, or personal sin.” <sup>4</sup> AMEN!

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<sup>1</sup> Hymn, “America, The Beautiful,” stanzas 1-2. Katharine Lee Bates. 1913. USA Flag Site. Retrieved 7/04/2014. <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/song-lyrics/america.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> King James Version Bible, PSALM 34:7-9.

<sup>3</sup> King James Version Bible, GALATIANS 5:13-14.

<sup>4</sup> Definition, “Freedom.” The Magnificat, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Prayer for The Evening, p 63.