

GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church

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GROWING IN GRACE “The Miracle of America”

“Almost a miracle” That’s what historian John Ferling calls the American victory in the war for independence from Great Britain. In his 2007 ‘magnus opus’ work by the same name, Ferling echoes the sentiment of General George Washington who said, “The American victory was little short of a standing miracle.” Indeed, Divine Providence delivered such a stunning result, through a ragtag contingent of poorly supplied amateur militia men, that the world took notice. After all, the vanquished were none other than the British military, arguably the most powerful military machine in the world.

It is exceedingly noteworthy that the “miracle,” officially notarized on October 19, 1781, when British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered his army to American General George Washington at Yorktown, was preceded by an American appeal to “Divine Providence” on July 4, 1776, at Philadelphia. The appeal, published as The Declaration of Independence, was as follows:

“...appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world....and for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

Thus was the beginning of the “miracle” signed by fifty-six delegates who put everything on the line for a faceoff with King George III and the British Empire. It was configured like unto a Biblical David and Goliath showdown. And as David prevailed against all odds, so the American Colonists prevailed in like-sign. It was definitely “a God thing.”

On July 4, 2026, as America celebrates her Semiquincentennial, or 250th birthday, it is imperative that the miracle be remembered and adorned with highest praise and humble thanksgiving to God Almighty. Naysayers about such an imperative quickly point to America’s blights, blots, and blunders as reasons for anti-patriotism. But is patriotism an appropriate sentiment only when the slate is completely clean? If that is the conclusion then no country would ever have a place for patriotism, nor a reason for citizen pride and loyalty.

To be sure, the reality of “sin in the camp” could always be a reason for God’s outpoured judgment. Yet when God withholds judgment and grants reprieve, even for a season, there is cause for celebration (patriotism?) and that with great contrition. God’s patience, longsuffering, grace, and mercy that extend opportunity for repentance is a great source of encouragement. To know God

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