

## Freedom!

As he rode back and forth before the throng of painted faces, he screamed “FREEDOM!” at the top of his lungs. You could see the yearning in his eyes. You could hear it in his voice. You could feel it in the air. So could the throng of Scottish warriors before which he rode, who had long been enslaved by the dictatorial oppression of England. That was William Wallace in the movie “Braveheart.”

This is strictly movie material for most of us because we’re so familiar with freedom. It’s difficult for us to think outside the box of freedom. We don’t often even think deeply about what it means to be free, except on weekends like this, when we’re reminded of the privileges we enjoy in this country which many in the world do not. We can go where we want, when we want. We can purchase property. We can worship without fear of death. We can speak as we wish, knowing that we have the freedom to do so.

We reflect gratefully upon the selflessness of previous heroes who secured these great freedoms for us with their sweat and their lives. We think of those who are currently on the battlefield, defending these freedoms so that we enjoy them not only for today, but also for tomorrow. Our freedom truly is a precious treasure that has been purchased at great price. Freedom isn’t free.

Many people, despite the wonderful freedoms we enjoy in this great country, are far from free. Many are enslaved to fear, anxiety, discouragement, jealousy, anger, addictions, depression, loneliness, and hopelessness. These “masters” control and rule with the iron grip of tyranny; stealing the joy, peace, and security that might otherwise be enjoyed.

Just as William Wallace rode into the hearts of the Scots to inspire them to freedom, Jesus Christ rode into this world to purchase our freedom. He is the great Freedom Fighter! He is the One who came to break the cords of our enslavement and to secure our release from the captivity and oppression which binds us. He came to set us free, not just for today, not just for tomorrow, but for all eternity.

Our freedom in this country was purchased at the high cost of the blood of our brave ones and, in the same way, the freedom for which Christ came was purchased with His blood. He gave His life on our behalf so that we might enjoy all of the fullness of life.

While freedom in this world is precious to all, no freedom compares with that which is found in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In John 8:36 the Word of God says, “...if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” On this great day of celebration, as you reflect on the freedoms that we enjoy in this great country, embrace the great Freedom Fighter and you, too, can scream, “FREEDOM” from the top of your lungs.