

Daily Devotional #2 – God’s Independence

What does it mean when we say God is independent?

At first glance, it may seem like this attribute has to do with freedom. The United States has the Declaration of Independence which is a document revealing our freedom from Great Britain. This attribute does not focus on God’s freedom primarily. To better understand the meaning we need to break down the root word “dependent”. What does it mean to be “dependent” on something? It means you rely on something or need something for you to be able to exist or accomplish something. For example, humans are dependent on many things. They depend on oxygen to breathe. They depend on a healthy heart to pump blood to the body. Without those things, the body will perish. Likewise, a newborn baby depends on someone to provide them with food because they cannot do it for themselves. Most of all, humans depend on God for existence. Job 34:14-15 says, *“If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.”* Without God, we would all die because we are dependent on Him.

***God is NOT dependent on anyone, which is why He can be referred to as independent. With that in mind, read the following verses: Ex. 3:14, John 5:26, Acts 17:24, Rev. 1:8, Ps. 90:2

In those verses, you will see that God has always existed. He has no beginning and no end. He depends on no one since He has life in Himself. He made all things and therefore doesn’t need any of His creation. He doesn’t need the angels. He doesn’t need the earth or anything on the earth. We don’t add anything to God, and yet in His kindness He created us. He is self-existent and completely independent of anyone or anything.

What does this mean for us?

God’s independence teaches us that we, as humans, are not at the center of the universe. The world doesn’t revolve around us. This should once again cause us to realize how small we really are. Without God, we all perish. This should humble us and cause an incredible amount of gratitude. Knowing that God sustains us for every breath we take should cause us to thank Him for the time we have been given. We didn’t earn it and God didn’t owe anything to us. God decided on the day we would be born and has already decided on the day we will die. We do not know when that day is and this should stir us to think about death. We do not know the exact day that we will die, but we do know if we are prepared to die.

So, I want to ask you now. Are you prepared for death? Knowing that your life is held in the hands of God, do you know where you will go when you die?

We must see ourselves as completely dependent on God not only for physical life, but for spiritual life. Ephesians 2 says all mankind are DEAD in their trespasses and sins and that judgment awaits them when they die. Just like a dead person cannot raise themselves from the dead, so a spiritually dead person cannot make themselves spiritually alive. All mankind needs a Savior and this Savior is Jesus, the Son of God who is also God. His death on the cross paid the penalty for sins and the righteous life He lived on earth is now offered to us. Through faith in Jesus we receive His righteousness and He receives our sins to pay for them. God does not depend on us, but in His grace, He has given us an opportunity to live. If you are a believer, this should cause you to praise your Savior! If you are not a Christian, I pray that you would not waste the days that you have been by God living in sin. Put your faith in Christ now because 2 Cor. 6:2b says, *“Behold, now is the day of salvation.”*