



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



## Remembering the Sacrifice



America's Founding Fathers came to this country seeking religious freedom, economic opportunities and political liberty. They formed 13 colonies, but colonists did not have the freedom to make their own laws. They paid high taxes to the British government and had no equal representation. These and many other unfair conditions led to a severance of the settlers' ties to Great Britain and the creation of *The Declaration of Independence* in 1776.

*The Declaration* represents the core of our beliefs, the very makeup of our identity as Americans, which is summarized in these words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men

are created equal. . . ." This idea has given us the courage to forge our own paths as individuals and as a nation.

At great risk, every generation of Americans has stood up to many forms of tyranny and oppression, no matter the cost, no matter how long it has taken, so that liberty would prevail.

When we have paid a great price for something, we cherish it because we recognize its value. And yet that same object loses its value when others have paid for it and it costs us little or nothing. After more than 200 years of national independence, the sacrifices made for our freedom are easily taken for granted and we quickly lose sight of the cost.

Liberty has not come cheap. History indicates that 344,959 lives were lost in World Wars I and II alone! These soldiers willingly gave their lives so that their sons, daughters and other Americans would be blessed by their sacrifices.

As we reap the benefits of liberty, may we be reminded every time we celebrate Independence Day never to take our freedom lightly.

These words are a reminder of the blessings of this great country:

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing:  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside  
Let freedom ring! [[Watch Video](#)]

America, Happy Independence Day! Let freedom ring!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

# True Freedom: Be All That You Can Be

If you looked up the word "freedom" in a dictionary, you might be surprised to find a picture and biography of Isaac Lidsky as a case study. His story is a reminder of the relationship between freedom and potential.

## The Storybook Life of Isaac Lidsky

As a child, [Isaac appeared in more than 150 commercials](#). At age 13, he starred in NBC's TV show, *Saved by the Bell*. He attended Columbia College at 15 and transferred to Harvard University, where he graduated at 19 with honors degrees in mathematics and computer science.

In the summer following his first degree, Isaac co-founded an Internet advertising business. He spent two years at the startup before leaving to enroll at Harvard Law School (HLS), where he graduated magna cum laude. Years later, the company he had co-founded was acquired for \$230 million.

While studying at HLS, Isaac met Dorothy Johnston, who became his wife. The couple had four children, including a set of triplets.

After graduating from law school, Isaac served as a [law clerk for Supreme Court Justices](#) Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

A few years later, Isaac and a college roommate purchased a failing, Florida-based construction company. Isaac became the CEO and his business partner became the Chief Financial Officer. Today under Isaac's leadership, the company is successful and worth more than \$70 million.

Isaac has lived what many would consider a storybook life. Yet he has never seen most of his accomplishments — he is blind.



How could someone with such a limitation achieve so much?

## Your Limitless Potential

Isaac is honest about the limitations of his blindness, but he also knows they do not diminish his potential. He said, "When I was diagnosed with my blinding disease, I knew blindness would ruin my life. . . . It was a lie. . . . If I had not confronted the reality of my fear, I would have lived it." Every day he chooses to pursue his potential rather than focus on his limitations. It's a choice that has brought him true freedom.

If we're honest with ourselves, we have limitations, too. But we also have potential. And no one knows this better than our Creator. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory. . . ." (Ephesians 3:20-21a)

Your loftiest dreams, your deepest thoughts — God is able to do far more abundantly than even the limits of your own mind. He enables us to realize our potential in Him. Don't let past failures, the opinions of others, or your own fears and limitations put you in a box. Don't settle for a mediocre, sub-par existence. Dream big. God has given you great potential and is calling you to experience the joy of realizing it for His glory. Embrace this freedom today.

- Cam Edwards

