

Eli Johnson

The Gift of Progression

Everyone wants to be safe, happy, and free. While America has had its dark times, America has been literally revolutionary in offering a place for people to not only be physically and mentally free, but emotionally and spiritually free as well. One of the most beautiful things about America is that it was built around the idea of progression; the constitution has amendments and we have the ability to change the government for what's needed. Past the physical progression of the government, there's also a progression for each individual. The ability for each individual's progression is found through three simple parts of the Declaration of Independence; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Each of these three things represent something crucial to America. Life represents safety, liberty represents freedom, and the pursuit of happiness is positivity.

The first of the key things to Americans protection is life which represents safety. Simply understood, life is the guarantee of our physical safety. Today's protection of one's physical being is something often overlooked who the average American citizen dies after sixty or more years. Amazingly enough without this protection, people were easily harassed and killed. Americans don't have to fear bombings or kidnappings like many people must in foreign nations. The other net of safety we're offered through the gift of life is the ability to simply do something with it. As a Japanese entertainer once said, "I see now that the circumstances of one's birth are irrelevant... It is what you do with the gift of life that determines who you are." In America our right to live allows us to progress and make ourselves and others better. In order for us to do anything with this gift of life however, we need liberty to act with it.

The second crucial key to America's greatness is the liberty which gives us the freedom to act. In order for America and Americans to progress, change needs to occur. We can wait for change to occur, or we can act to make change happen like those of our forefathers in revolutionary acts like the Boston Tea Party. Nothing gets done unless someone acts and in order to act we need liberties. As a religious and opinionated American myself, the reality of how much more difficult my life would be if I didn't get to act in such situations as going to my usual worship service, or just being allowed to go to school, then my life would be far more depressing. This country was built around the idea that we need to act and not sit idle by to let other's actions shape our lives. Our forefathers refused to give in to the demands of those who oppressed them. They did it so that we would have a safer place to live where we can actively work to make the change we want to see in the world.

The third key to America's progression is the pursuit of happiness which offers positivity for people. This is the most crucial aspect to American progression. Life and liberty are excellent things, but what good are they without a purpose to guide someone. Happiness is that purpose. Jack London once said, "I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet." What good is a life without happiness? It is the number one fault of the world, not world hunger not war, but happiness. If you were living in the middle of the jungle without modern day commodities, but you were still happy, then that would be a better life worth living compared to a sad mundane existence constantly doing the same meaningless, boring thing each day. The greatness of America is that we can enjoy modern commodities and do different things each day. We have the protection necessary to simply be happy and live life to the fullest while helping others do the same. It offers us a chance to not have to fear being criticized, because we are safe to grow and to learn.

America is truly a spectacular place to live. We can progress and grow through the use of our rights. With life, we enjoy physical, mental, emotional, and even spiritual safety. With liberty we enjoy the protection necessary for us to act and make things better in our lives. With the pursuit of happiness, we enjoy the warmth of positivity and happiness that offers us a chance to grow and change without fear of rejection. I am thankful for the opportunities I get each day just to learn and to work towards my progression in life to be just a better human being.