

What Freedom Means to Me

Everybody has a right to be free. It is the most loved thing for all people, but sometimes we do not understand how important freedom is until we lose it. Benjamin Franklin said, "Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature." While freedom is a right, it is also the ability to struggle to have a better life, a gift from God that you must choose and take care of, and an exercise in self-control.

The struggle for improving life is a very important part of freedom. It is in every human's nature. I think that losing your freedom is the most painful thing that can happen. This feeling was always a part of my life because the country where I lived, Georgia, experienced this tragedy exactly fourteen years ago. So many years have passed away, but the pain has never changed. We never gave up the struggle to solve the problem and we still keep doing this. Fourteen years ago our neighboring country, Russia, destroyed our legal right of freedom, and took a huge piece of land from Georgia. This ruined the lives of the people who obviously had to leave their own properties and run away. These people lost the right of freedom. I have many friends from this territory and they say that during those days they better understood the high value of freedom given by the God and laws of nature. Freedom is a struggle, but it also is a right of choice that belongs to us as well.

Freedom is a gift from God, which we should choose and take care of. But in modern world this value disappears more and more every day. People say that it is not true, but if it is not true, how can they explain the fact that a lot of people go to jail each day?! This is a good example of people who totally do not care about freedom. Yes, freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but something we must decide to cherish. Everything happens only the way you let it go. Freedom is, I would say, our birthday present from God and the nature, but if we do not keep an eye on it, we will just lose it. The lost things sometimes never show up again. This also happens other ways in the real life. The life we choose we choose determines the gifts we get. Sometimes people looking for a better life, income, and so forth, suddenly become the slaves of one particular person. That has happened in many countries during communism and socialism periods. My country was one of the communist countries, so I know that was nothing more than slavery. The only thing I wonder about is how the people living in those territories felt so lucky and happy. They thought they were making progress, they had jobs, and everything was under control. But it was missing only one small part of the "happy" story: everything you did had to be dedicated to the leader of communism. So, in my opinion, communism and socialism were the systems that we deserved at that time. I think, if you want to be free not only must choose freedom but also you should keep yourself under self-control.

We must always exercise self-control. I think that the problem in the modern world is that most people do not understand the right definition of freedom. They think that it means you can do anything you desire, no matter if that hurts anybody else around you. Sometimes we forget that the God gave the same rights to everybody. We just use them differently. It is right, that God gave us the freedom but the funny thing is that freedom has its limits, too. We have to deal with each other. Your freedom depends on the society you live in. I understand that pretty well because I have to deal with different people, from many different cultures. I always think that freedom is how you control yourself and how you make correction in your life because we all make mistakes on each level of life.

Only couple decades ago some of these people remembered about the legal right of freedom and started fighting to withdraw from communism and socialism. When you start thinking about your rights and responsibilities more and more, everything becomes clearer and easier. That is why most countries withdrew from communism and socialism and became independent. So I think that we all have to think about the future and reflect on the thoughts of people, like Benjamin Franklin and choose the life that fits our spirit the most. After that, I think, everybody will agree that freedom is our right given by the God and nature, but sometimes we deny it.