

MEL'S MEDITATIONS

I appreciate our country. I'm thankful for all the freedoms we have, especially the freedom of religion. We have many Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are being persecuted and are aware that their trust in God could cost them their lives at any moment.

In India goals have been set relating to how many Christian ministers can be killed at one time. The government isn't too concerned about it because it is a prominently Hindu and Muslim country. We have our independence and have not had to face such persecutions, and I hope we are thankful for the blessings we have.

I also hope that we can appreciate our independence and at the same time understand our need for dependence. There was a sign seen in a textile mill, "When your thread becomes tangled, call the foreman." A young woman was new on the job. Her thread became tangled and she thought, "I'll just straighten this out myself." She tried, but the situation only worsened. Finally she called the foreman. "I did the best I could," she said. "No you didn't. To do the best, you should've called me." That is the way our relationship is with God. Sin has tangled our life. We need to call on God to become straightened out. Too often, we assert our independence and try to work it out ourselves, rather than relying on God. Paul learned this lesson and stated in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.*⁸ *Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.*⁹ *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* When we give up our independence and depend on God, then we become strong.

I appreciate our independence as a nation and my personal dependence on God as my Lord and Savior. I hope you do too. God Bless, Pastor Mel Zumbrun