

# Founder's Wisdom for Freedom

"Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppression of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day." – Thomas Jefferson

When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty." – Thomas Jefferson

"All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for good conscience to remain silent." – Thomas Jefferson

Experience hath shown, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny." – Thomas Jefferson

"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is a force, like a fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action." - George Washington

"Over grown military establishments are under any form of government inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty." - George Washington

"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism." - George Washington

"It will be found an unjust and unwise jealousy to deprive a man of his natural liberty upon the supposition he may abuse it." - George Washington

"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." - George Washington

"The executive has no right, in any case, to decide the question whether there is or is not cause for declaring war." - James Madison

"The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become the instruments of tyranny at home." - James Madison

"If tyranny and oppression come to this land it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy." - James Madison

"Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. there was never a democracy that did not commit suicide." - John Adams

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom." - John Adams

"There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty." - John Adams

"But a Constitution once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty once lost is lost forever." - John Adams

"A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in region of ignorance the tyranny begins." - Benjamin Franklin

"It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority." - Benjamin Franklin

"Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." - Benjamin Franklin

"He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression." - Thomas Paine

"To say people are not fit for freedom, is to make poverty their choice, and to say they would rather be loaded with taxes than not." - Thomas Paine

"The strength and power of despotism consists wholly in the fear resistance." - Thomas Paine

"All of the tyrannies that afflict mankind, tyranny in religion is the worst. Every other species of tyranny is limited to the world we live in, but this attempts a stride beyond the grave and seeks to pursue us into eternity." - Thomas Paine

"When men yield up the privilege of thinking, the last shadow of liberty quits the horizon." - Thomas Paine

"That government is best that governs least." - Thomas Paine

"It is the duty of the patriot to protect his country from the government." - Thomas Paine