



General Michael Flynn, Chairman | Ed Martin, President

## How Can I Keep From Singing?

In 1869, an American Baptist minister named Robert Lowry published one of the great hymns of American history. Titled "How Can I Keep From Singing?," the song tells the story of one who finds joy and peace in the midst of hardship. The lyrics of the first verse read as follows:

My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the sweet, tho' far-off hymn

That hails a new creation;  
Thro' all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;

It finds an echo in my soul—  
How can I keep from singing?

The concept of outspoken joy in spite of difficulty can be found throughout the pages of Scripture. One of my favorite accounts comes from Acts 16, where the Apostle Paul and his companion Silas are thrown into prison for the crime of proclaiming the Gospel. Having just been brutally whipped with "many stripes," the jailer "thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks." In all likelihood, that meant a cramped, musty, basement cell with no windows and no bathroom. The shackles on their ankles served as a constant reminder of their dismal lack of freedom.

Despite the hardship of their condition, the Bible tells that "at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." What strikes me about this account is that it was not in spite of their condition, but because of it that Paul and Silas were able to testify to the others around them. Even when the Lord sent an earthquake to loosen the doors of the prison, the freed Christians used it as an opportunity to lead the jailer to the Lord rather than as an opportunity for escape.

The example of Paul and Silas is certainly a challenge to all of us who are Christians, but I believe their example applies to us as patriots also. When the world stands ready to persecute those who defend our nation from a culture of hatred, who among us would be willing to boldly proclaim our love for America?

If the Lord has given you the gift of song, then by all means sing. But my challenge to every American is to demonstrate your allegiance by taking two simple steps:

**"Raise the flag, say the Pledge."** Every one of us should have the ability to display the American flag in some fashion and recite the Pledge of Allegiance regularly. What's more, I challenge you to record yourself saying the Pledge and share it on social media. When you've done that, reply to this email with a recording so I can see that you have done it.

This is not a Democrat versus Republican issue or a right versus left issue. This is about rising above difficulty to proclaim that Americans will always stand united as "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." I cannot deny that our country feels like a dark place today, but what better time could there be for Lady Liberty's torch to shine brightly?

"Thro' all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing; it finds an echo in my soul — How can I keep from singing?"

Thank you for continuing to [support the mission of America's Future](#). I hope you will take me up on my challenge to "Raise the flag, say the Pledge." I also ask that you listen to [the second episode of my new podcast](#), where I talk about the early days of my military career and how that shaped who I am today.

Sincerely,

Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman, America's Future, Inc.