

Hope for Freedom

I recently came across a true story about Henry Brown.¹ He was born into slavery on a plantation in Virginia and was a lifelong Christian. In 1849, the 33-year-old Brown stuffed himself into a wooden crate marked “dry goods.” He had two friends ship him from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia. Brown was cooped up in the 3 x 2.5 x 2-foot crate for 26 hours in his quest for freedom. The crate was shipped by wagon, railroad, steamboat, ferry, and finally a delivery wagon. Three small holes provided the oxygen he needed to survive the journey. As Philadelphia abolitionists pulled Brown from the box, he began singing a Psalm 40-based song that expresses our hope in God, who promises freedom. Brown later wrote, “You cannot realize the power of that hope of freedom, which was to me indeed, an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast.”



We honor those who have given their lives for our freedom as a nation. Just as Henry Brown went to extremes in his quest for freedom, many have made extreme sacrifices for our freedoms.

Henry Brown placed his hope for freedom in the Lord. That is precisely where it belongs. The Bible assures us, *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17).* “*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery*” (Galatians 5:1).

Accept God’s invitation for freedom. There is great power in freedom. Believers can receive forgiveness, freeing them from the burden of their sins in the eyes of God, and free to seek eternal life with Him. Thanks to Jesus, we have a future released from the bondage of sin in the land of the free.

Question: When have you felt trapped in life? Do you sense God’s desire to guide you into freedom?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for the freedom that we enjoy as we live in this country, and the genuine freedom we seek as followers of Jesus. Let us never forget the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who is the anchor for our lives and who has won our eternal freedom. Let us also honor those who have earned the freedom of this nation. Amen.

¹ Our Daily Bread, May 23, 2026 with additional research in Wikipedia.