



*The Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies*

SEMINAR 4

# Restoring the Founders' Dream

*Healing of America Series*

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Thomas Jefferson Center  
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES



The Healing of America  
STUDY GUIDE FOR STUDY COURSE #4

# “Restoring the Founders Dream”

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The Healing of America  
Study Course #4

*Restoring the Founders' Dream*

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## Introduction

Welcome to the fourth seminar of the Healing of America series entitled “Restoring the Founders’ Dream.” This is perhaps the most important seminar of all. As Americans we need to rescue our beloved country by restoring the Constitution in the tradition of its original Founders.

Never has the future appeared so bleak and challenging as it is now, and many Americans are saying, “What is to be done?” The answer to this question takes us full circle from Seminar #1 where we learned about God's hand in the discovery and building of America.

We studied in great detail the Founders’ beliefs that the Creator was \_\_\_\_\_ involved in assisting the early Americans in their establishment of a free nation. You will recall how, on over 67 occasions, General Washington wrote letters to Congress explaining that without the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hand of God, he and his fellow soldiers would have lost those particular battles.

Following this important study, we were able to learn about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States from the viewpoint of the Founders themselves. We were able to see that every facet of the Constitution was based on \_\_\_\_\_ experiences which the God of heaven allowed the Founders to experience. Indeed they were “raised up” for the very purpose to establish the Constitution. The Founders, in fact, were so confident in heavenly guidance that they felt the principles of the Constitution were eternal and belonged to \_\_\_\_\_ flesh.

In seminar number three, we learned of the organizations, groups, and people who had lost confidence in the Founding Fathers and what they stood for. A number of these became Master Planners who said they were seeking a “\_\_\_\_\_ world order.” They insisted on not only abandoning the principles laid down by the Founding Fathers in America, but they attempted to set up barriers that would prevent these principles from being incorporated anywhere in the \_\_\_\_\_.

It might be well to call these Master Planners “the founding fathers of \_\_\_\_\_.” They wanted to change the economy of America from the Founders’ principles of free enterprise to a program called Democratic Socialism. Democratic Socialism, we learned, is defined as “total control of the finances of the nation with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people’s representatives.”

With all this background information, we are now ready to identify what will be necessary to restore the Founders’ dream. It is very possible that one day, individuals who take a strong leadership role in this restoration process will be referred to as being “founding fathers of the \_\_\_\_\_.” Like the original Founders, these individuals may be looked upon with great reverence and honor as having had the fortitude and the will to see that the original principles laid down by the Founders once again became an integral thread of the social fabric of our great land.

The Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies believes that this monumental task will require assistance from the heavens much like it did when the United States was originally born.

In the introduction to this Healing of America seminar series, we quoted Dr. W. Cleon Skousen, as he expressed these very thoughts. Let us again review the feelings of this great scholar and patriot:

### **A Promise from God That Will Someday Be Fulfilled In America**

I am not pessimistic about the future. I think the soul of America is going to be cleansed by events which will humble the whole nation and put us back on our knees where we can talk with God and recommit ourselves to lives of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I am a great believer in the promise of God which appears in 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says:

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will \_\_\_\_\_ their land.”

Of course, I know the skeptics, the immoral, the political sophisticates and the cynics might laugh at this scripture, but I believe it. And I further believe that God will not be \_\_\_\_\_ and that if this nation does not seek God and turn from their wicked ways — their crimes, drugs, abortions and political corruption — there will be a crisis and a cleansing that will turn the people from their wicked ways and put them on their knees. I have lived long enough to see this happen several times before.

Dr. Skousen then expressed his feelings of optimism, as shared by the present leaders of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies:

### **Meanwhile, What Should We Do?**

But we need not be pessimists, just \_\_\_\_\_. Every family needs to do whatever it can to put its house in order. A home can become a refuge against the coming storm. The love developed between parents and among children for their parents is God’s supreme formula for his kind of social security. Wherever I find families struggling to build these bonds of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ I know they are paying the dividends for a kind of insurance that will hold them together through the pressures and trials that may reach their peak one of these days.

Now I know you may have heard me say this before, but sometimes people say, “Dr. Skousen you have studied the problems of our country most of your adult life, and yet you remain optimistic. How can you be optimistic when you know from your own experience how serious things are?”

My answer is rather simple. I tell them, “I read the book, and in the end we win!”

In this seminar, "Restoring the Founders' Dream," we will be discussing what needs to take place on six levels. That is, what we must do:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_,
- 2) In our \_\_\_\_\_,
- 3) On the \_\_\_\_\_ level,
- 4) On the \_\_\_\_\_ level,
- 5) On the \_\_\_\_\_ level, and finally
- 6) What needs to be done on the \_\_\_\_\_ level.



## RESTORING INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND FAMILY VALUES

### I. Individual Freedom – Foundation of Good Government

A. Each of the Founding Fathers expressed that they had an individual responsibility to be \_\_\_\_\_ of God's blessings. As it was for them, so it is with us. Therefore, it is important that we as a people realize that our country has digressed so far away from moral standards, that without the help of the heavens we will never be able to get America back on track.

B. A number of years ago, former United States Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra T. Benson, emphasized this point, when he spoke at the American Freedom Festival. He spoke about the necessity of each individual being righteous enough that the heavens could be \_\_\_\_\_ in interceding on our behalf. His talk was entitled "Righteousness Exalteth a Nation."



C. We have taken the liberty of including his entire speech in this seminar. You will notice that at the end of his remarks Secretary Benson has outlined four things that we need to do if we are going to succeed in restoring the American Dream. We will discuss those four things in more detail after we have reviewed his speech.

*My fellow Americans, I would like to use as a text for my address this day a verse from the Old Testament. The book of Proverbs says: "Righteousness exalteth a nation." (Proverbs 14:34) This is the key to \_\_\_\_\_ our heritage and this is the key to \_\_\_\_\_ it. The foundations of America are spiritual. That must never be forgotten nor doubted. Lest we forget, let us review those beginnings, looking for the spiritual moorings which underpin our nation.*

*This nation began with the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620. You are all familiar with the pilgrimage which brought the Puritans to this land.*

*They had come to these shores under financial sponsorship of the Virginia Company of London and of Plymouth, England. Their intent was to settle in the Virginia Colony, but they landed far to the North where the King of England had no authority. Since England had no government for them, they decided to form a government of their own! Assembled in the cabin of the Mayflower, 41 adult males formed a compact as the source of their authority.*

*That compact was drafted in “the name of God.” Their reasons for a government were also asserted: “For the Glory of God” and “the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian faith.” These are the twin \_\_\_\_\_ of our religious freedom in this nation. One hundred and two pilgrims had left England for the promised land. Fifty-one, just half the colony, survived the first winter. Not one of the survivors returned to England. They formed a commonwealth based on the principle of religious liberty - faith in an omnipotent God.*

*Aye, call it holy ground,  
The soil where they first trod,  
They have left unstained what they found-  
Freedom to worship God.*



*Hardly had the new nation had its beginning than oppression came from the mother country. Injustice, oppressive taxation, the despised navigation acts – all led the colonists to deliberate on their rights and liberties under the crown. A petition to the King failed. Then the “shot heard ‘round the world” was fired at \_\_\_\_\_.*

*A short time later, in the summer of 1776, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and declared independence from England. The main doctrine of that crowning document -- the Declaration of Independence – is this: That the Creator (God) endowed all men with basic \_\_\_\_\_, and that governments derived their powers from the consent of the governed. Until the American Revolution, a millennium of political tradition vested powers only in monarchs and dictators. The framers of our Republic simply declared the truth – that God gave all men the right to life, liberty, and \_\_\_\_\_. Man, therefore, was master over government rather than the other way around.*

*That is what the American Revolution was all about - not just a separation from England, but a separation from the historical tradition that made one man another’s chattel and \_\_\_\_\_ all men liberty and property. While some vacillated on whether to separate from England and adopt the Declaration of Independence, the sentiments of John Adams were described by Daniel Webster as follows:*

*“Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my hand and my heart to this vote. It is indeed, that in the beginning we aimed not at independence. But there’s a divinity which shapes our ends....Why then, should we defer the Declaration?”*

*“You and I, indeed, may rue it. We may not live to the time when this Declaration shall be made good...but whatever may be our fate, be assured,...that this Declaration will stand. It may cost treasure, and it may cost blood: but it will stand, and it will richly compensate for both....*



*“My judgment approves this measure, and my whole heart is in it. All that I have, and all that I am, and all that I hope, in this life, I am now ready here to stake upon it; and I leave off as I began, that live or die, survive or perish, I am for the Declaration. It is my living sentiment, and by the blessing of God it shall be my dying sentiment. Independence now, and independence forever!” (The Works of Daniel Webster, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 1851, 1:133-136)*

*From the standpoint of numbers, equipment, training, and resources, the rag-tag army of the Colonists should never have won the war for independence. But America’s destiny was not to be determined by overwhelming numbers, or better military weapons or strategy. As Adams declared: “There’s a divinity which shapes our ends.” (Shakespeare) God took a \_\_\_\_\_ hand in the events that led to the defeat of the British. When the war was over, here is how Washington described the victory:*

*“The success, which has hitherto attended our united efforts, we owe to the gracious interposition of heaven, and to that interposition let us gratefully ascribe the praise of victory, and the blessings of peace.” (Letter to the Executives of New Hampshire, November 3, 1789)*

*It seems fashionable today for historians to “secularize” our history. Many modern scholars seem uncomfortable with the idea that a divine \_\_\_\_\_ had a hand in the beginning of our nation. They seek to explain away what the colonists themselves saw as divine intervention in their behalf. They credit even those remarkable events to “natural causes” or “rational” explanations. All events are explained from a “\_\_\_\_\_” frame of reference. This removes the need for faith in God or a belief that He is interested in the affairs of men.*

*But the Founding Fathers had no problems seeing the hand of the Lord in the birth of the nation. As we have noted, George Washington gave direct credit to God for the victory over the British in the Revolutionary War. But that did not end the need for inspiration and \_\_\_\_\_ help. The newly formed nation was hardly a united commonwealth. At best it could be described as a federation of colonies loosely held together by the Articles of Confederation. Under this instrument, the nation had no head – no president, and no supreme court - only a congress devoid of any power! In addition, rebellions and potential anarchy threatened the victory won by war.*

*Providentially, a Constitutional Convention was called in 1787... The delegates met from May 25<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup> with George Washington president. A central issue was whether they were to merely revise the Articles of Confederation or write a new constitution. Debates were earnest and at times it appeared that the convention was deadlocked. On one of those occasions, the elder statesman of the group, Benjamin \_\_\_\_\_ appealed to the delegates. He declared:*

*"I have lived, sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And, if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."*



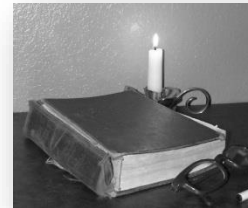
*I firmly believe this; and I also believe, that, without his concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel;...I therefore beg leave to move, that henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business; and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service." (Jared Sparks, The Works of Benjamin Franklin, 1837, pp. 155-56)*

*The deadlock was broken. Compromises were made. A constitution was drafted. And 39 of 55 delegates signed it. Again, I would ask: Why is it that the references to God's influence in the noble efforts of the Founders of our Republic are not mentioned by modern \_\_\_\_\_? Listen to the convictions of two of these delegates to the Constitutional Convention. First, Charles Pinckney:*

*When the great work was done and published, I was... struck with amazement. Nothing less than the superintending Hand of Providence, that so miraculously carried us through the war...could have brought it about so complete, upon the whole.*

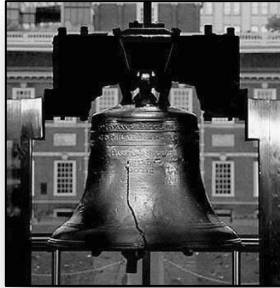
*Here is another testimony, this from James Madison, sometimes referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution:*

*It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution. (The Federalist Papers, No. 37)*



*The fact that our Founding Fathers looked to God for help and inspiration should not surprise us, for they were men of great faith. These men had been raised up specifically by the Lord so they could participate in the great political drama unfolding in America....:*

Yes, our nation's foundation is spiritual. Without \_\_\_\_\_ we are no better than any of the other nations which have sunk into oblivion. Our Founding Fathers, with solemn and reverent expression, voiced their allegiance to the sovereignty of God, knowing that they were accountable to Him in the day of judgment. Are we less accountable today? I think not. I urge you to keep the commandments and to pray for our nation and its leaders.



The Founding Fathers understood the principle that "righteousness exalteth a nation," and helped to bring about one of the greatest systems ever used to govern men. But unless we continue to seek righteousness and preserve the liberties entrusted us, we shall \_\_\_\_\_ the blessings of heaven. Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." The price of freedom is also to live in accordance with the commandments of God.

The early Founding Fathers thanked the Lord for His intervention in their behalf. They saw His hand in their victories in battle and believed strongly that He watched over them.

The battles are not over yet, and there will yet be times when this great nation will need the overshadowing help of \_\_\_\_\_. Will we as a nation be worthy to call upon Him for help?...

How do we prepare ourselves so God will \_\_\_\_\_ in our behalf in the days ahead? I would like to suggest four important things we can do.

**1. We must, both as individuals and as a nation, look to God as our maker and as the \_\_\_\_\_ of our freedoms and blessings.**



Our nation has faced many crises since its founding. One of the most grave was the Civil War. Once again the Lord had raised up a great leader to be the man of the hour. Abraham Lincoln understood the spiritual foundations of America and the need for Divine help and guidance. He called upon the people to have a day of national fasting and prayer. His proclamation contains wisdom and counsel

of great worth to us

\_\_\_\_\_.

"It is the duty of nations as well as men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and

*proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."*

**2. We must make the creation of quality \_\_\_\_\_ life a high priority in our lives.**



*Families are the foundation blocks of any society. When the majority of families are strong and self-reliant, the nation prospers and dwells safely. But today there are many forces pulling at the fabric of family life.*

*One of the primary goals ... is to support strong family life. We teach and emphasize that the key to family stability is a happy marriage based on family worship. Divorce is deplored. We are actively engaged in teaching fathers to be compassionate fathers, and mothers to be full-time mothers in the home. Fathers are commanded to take the lead in all spiritual matters.*

*We encourage parents to teach their children fundamental spiritual principles that will instill faith in \_\_\_\_\_, faith in their \_\_\_\_\_, and faith in their \_\_\_\_\_. We plead with parents to spend time with their children, both in teaching them and in building positive relationships. These are the things that create and foster strong family units and a stable society.*

**3. We must become informed and knowledgeable \_\_\_\_\_.**



*The prophet Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for lack of \_\_\_\_\_." We must not let that happen here. There are two important things we must do:*

*We must study and learn for ourselves the principles laid down in the Constitution which have preserved our freedoms for the last two hundred years. If we do not understand the role of government and how our rights are protected by the Constitution, we may accept programs or organizations that help \_\_\_\_\_ our freedoms. An informed citizenry is the first line of defense against anarchy and tyranny.*

*We must teach our children about the spiritual roots of this great nation. We must become actively involved in supporting programs and textbooks in the \_\_\_\_\_ schools that teach the greatness of the early patriots who helped forge our liberties. We must teach our children that it is part of our faith that the Constitution of the United States was inspired by God. We reverence it akin to the revelations that have come from His hand. The great heritage of freedom bequeathed to us by our forebears must be handed down to each succeeding generation with great care.*

**4. We must become actively involved in supporting good, wise and honest people for public office and assume an \_\_\_\_\_ part in improving our communities.**



*Edmund Burke once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do \_\_\_\_\_."*  
*It is not enough that we wring our hands and moan about conditions in America. We must become responsible citizens and carry out our civic duty. We should be anxiously engaged in good causes and leave the world a better place for having lived in it.*

*My fellow Americans. We live in a great and glorious land. We have been the beneficiaries of great blessings from heaven. We must not ever forget the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Our nation is \_\_\_\_\_ in deep need of the help of the Almighty. We need His \_\_\_\_\_. We need His \_\_\_\_\_. We need His \_\_\_\_\_. When we as people not only desire to do His will, but determine we will do it, then we can expect that help from God.*

*I testify to you that the foundations of our country are spiritual. I testify that God has watched over us and blessed us greatly. I witness to you that those who keep the commandments of God will continue to be blessed in this land, for "righteousness exalteth a nation." God bless us all to be faithful. And may our Heavenly Father bless this land and preserve our divine Constitution and the Republic which it established..." (Benson, Ezra Taft, Provo Freedom Festival, Marriott Center, Sunday, June 29, 1986)*

- D. People of all religious persuasions can readily see that the great counsel that was laid down in this speech by Secretary Benson, can apply to all good people everywhere in America, and even in the world.
- E. You will notice that Secretary Benson was not negative about America, but he was \_\_\_\_\_. Far too often nowadays, negative attacks against this country and its leaders seem to be emphasized all over America. Some feel we should be complaining, attacking, and spreading discord and fear, but we prefer to join with Secretary Benson and Dr. Skousen that 2 Chronicles 7:14 is still possible. We should maintain a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, not fear or panic.
- F. Now let us take a closer look at the four things that Secretary Benson recommended that we do.
1. First, he said, we must, both as individuals and as a nation, look to God as our Maker and as the \_\_\_\_\_ of our freedoms and blessings.
    - a. This is the very thing that we studied in our seminar number one. We went to great lengths to provide the documentation showing how God's hand was \_\_\_\_\_ involved in the founding of America. Also we showed how God raised up the Founding Fathers for their Manifest Destiny.

- b. Because of their convictions, the Founders were willing to give their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Every serious student should review the material in Seminar #1, over and over again, until each receives his \_\_\_\_\_ conviction that God did indeed raise up the Founders to write the inspired Constitution.
2. Second, Secretary Benson's request was that we must make the creation of quality \_\_\_\_\_ life a high priority in our lives.
- a. It is impossible to have quality family life as long as we allow our communities, where our families are growing up, to be inundated with filth and vulgarity, surrounded by an atheistic society.
- b. In seminar number three, we talked about the great attacks that have been made on the moral fiber of this nation. Later in this seminar, we will discuss in greater detail, what we must do.
3. Third, we must become informed and knowledgeable \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. In seminar number two, we followed his suggestions by studying each part of the Constitution from the viewpoint of the Founding Fathers themselves. It is the position of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies that these men were so inspired and accurate in what they accomplished with the Constitution, that anything which \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ from these principles will encourage and allow a deterioration of the moral fiber of this nation.
- b. There are at least \_\_\_\_\_ major problems facing America today. In-depth studies reveal that they are all the result of our abandoning the Constitution and its principles. The Thomas Jefferson Center for Constitutional Studies wants to assist every serious student in obtaining a knowledge of Constitutional principles so that those who desire can become part of the great team of restoring the Charter of Freedom.
4. The fourth and final thing that Secretary Benson counseled us to do is to become actively involved in supporting good, wise and honest people for public office and assume an \_\_\_\_\_ part in improving our communities. Notice the qualifications that this statement outlines for those who want to become elected representatives of the people. They must be good, wise and honest.
- a. We believe that *wise* means they have the knowledge of the Constitution from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Founding Fathers.
- b. When they are *good* they are worthy to receive the inspiration from the Almighty God to assist them in their administrative duties in \_\_\_\_\_ the unalienable rights of the people.
- c. In addition, when they are *honest*, they will see to it that all the laws they pass and all the decisions they make will be in accordance to their sacred \_\_\_\_\_ of office. With the oath, they make a commitment to God as well as the people they serve, that they will