



YOUR SOUL MATTERS: THE SPIRIT OF NOTHING
Pamelajune Banks-Anderson, D.Min.
The Radically Inclusive Veteran Chaplain
LCDR (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps
drpjanderson@spaceforgrace.org



BE STILL, AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK



Eternal Lord God, how easy it would be to change the title of Frederick Douglass's speech, delivered by the former slave and prominent abolitionist on July 5, 1852, to "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Black American." Consider the following excerpts.

"At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. O! had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, to-day, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced.

"What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to Him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy -- a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States at this very hour."

In her book, **THE SEVEN FORCES OF SUPERNATURAL FAITH**, Dr. Sharon Nesbitt writes, "Pay special attention to patterns of laziness, lethargy, and procrastination. All of these tendencies oppose production and accompany the spirit of nothing," which attaches itself to entities designed to produce—faith, for example. America must REPENT and live up to the tenets of her promises of justice and equality. Let us remember, there is one God and one Liberty for all, a potential for unity and love that can inspire us all.

LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER!