

Gettysburg Address: Speech Transcript

- 1 Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
- 2 Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.
- 3 We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.
- 4 It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground.
- 5 The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.
- 6 The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.
- 7 It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.
- 8 It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion –
- 9 that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom –
- 10 and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.