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Hello Friends,

Talking with some men recently I shared a battle field attitude I acquired many years ago in Viet Nam. I have no idea where it came from or who may have spoken it in my presence. To this day this attitude has a profound effect on me. It is: "out there somewhere is a bullet with your name on it. When it is your turn it doesn't matter what you are doing it will find you - so quit worrying about it and just do your job!"

I am amazed by the large numbers of Christians who are paralyzed by the fear of death and how that fear effects their attitude about everything. With the recent tragedy in Oregon where the shooter asked some of his classmates if they were Christians and then commented "today you will be in Heaven!" Apparently even he believes that Christians really do go from this life to Heaven. So how is that some of us who claim to be Christ's do not believe strongly enough in our arrival in Heaven that it has an impact on our daily attitude? All the proof I need is found in 2 Corinthians 5:1-9:

"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

An affirmation I have appreciated for years is from the home of a martyred African pastor. I hope it will be a blessing to you also!

"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problems recognizing me - my banner will be clear!"

God bless you! Thank you for your prayers and gifts!

Richard