The Cause of Freedom

Since the beginning of our nation's history, Americans have gone to war for the cause of freedom. The earliest war in our history was the American Revolution. Others followed, including the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and more recently, the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan. For those of us who have never put our lives on the line, we don't realize the sacrifice and risk involved. Our calendar lists Veteran's Day as one of our important national holidays. It is a day of giving thanks and expressing our appreciation. We wouldn't live the same life without their sacrifice. The results of their service give us the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. An anonymous writer states it this way (paraphrased):

> It is the VETERAN who has given us freedom of religion.
> It is the VETERAN who has given us freedom of the press.
> It is the VETERAN who has given us freedom of speech.
> It is the VETERAN who has given us the freedom to assemble.
> It is the VETERAN who has given us the right to vote.
> It is the VETERAN, who salutes the Flag, who serves under the Flag.

Today, we honor all our armed service veterans. On October 2nd, 100 veterans returned from a Triad Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC., the 7th honor flight from our area. It is one of the ways in which we recognize their acts of bravery and service. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who were willing to go, serve, and give on behalf of the United States of America! God bless you!

As Christians, we can be veterans of the faith in Christ. It involves some of the characteristics of those who have served in the military. The basic steps are similar:

1- Obey the Commander
2- Engage the enemy
3- Fight to the end

We fight as Christians to win souls for Christ – in our families, communities, nation, and worldwide. Wars are inevitable in this sinful world, but so is the resistance to God as a higher power. Christians stand up for what they know is right, even in the face of opposition. Winning souls for Christ is an important cause, just as the cause of freedom won by our veterans. When we stand up for Christ, we fight for the freedoms Jesus has won for believers. Let us be willing to fight for Him. *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).* Be a veteran for Jesus. Obey Him, stand up to the opposition, and stay the course to the final victory. What is that final victory? It is an "honor flight" to an eternal destination.

The Bible Says: *You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. (Matthew 24:6).*

Question: Are you willing to be a veteran of the faith, fighting for the cause of freedom?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We are grateful for those willing to stand up for the cause of freedom, including those who have served in our military. Christians can learn from their example to obey our commander – Jesus Christ, to speak up for the faith, and to never give up the fight. Amen.

The idea of this devotion comes from an online sermon by Steve Shepherd (Sermon Central)