Glory

A Few Related Thoughts…

“Courage is the first of human qualities, because it is the quality that guarantees the others.”

--Aristotle

“Courage is doing what you’re afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you’re scared.”

--Eddie Rickenbacker

Top American fighter pilot of World War I;

Congressional Medal of Honor recipient

“I asked… a World War I (air combat) ace, who was 92… ‘Do you ever get nightmares?’ He said, ‘Yeah, I do.’ I asked him, ‘When was the last time you had one?’ He said, ‘Last night’.”

--Cmdr. Willie “Irish” Driscoll

US Navy fighter ace, Vietnam

“A real man will never let his fear of death overpower his honor, his sense of duty to his country, and his innate manhood.”

--US Army Gen. George S. Patton

“Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

--Nehemiah 8:10

“Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil… that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground.”

--St. Paul (Ephesians 6:11-12, 14)

“Courage… means a strong desire to live, taking the form of a readiness to die.”

--G.K. Chesterton

“I can do all things in him who strengthens me.”

--St. Paul (Phil 4:13)

“Nothing sustains me so much in danger as to know that there is one who ever watches over us.”

--Civil War soldier, 100th Pennsylvania Regiment,

in a letter to his sister[[1]](#footnote-1)

“Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

--St. Paul (Gal 6:14)

“Most likely, I shall be hit somewhere at sometime, but all my times are in His [God’s] hand… & so no harm can come to me unless it is wisely & kindly ordered so.”

--Civil War officer, 20th Maine Regiment, in a letter to his wife;

wounded six times; Congressional Medal of Honor recipient[[2]](#footnote-2)

“Fulfill the service asked of you. As for me, my life is already being poured away as an offering, and the time has come for me to depart. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race; I have kept the Faith.”

--St. Paul, to St. Timothy (2 Tim 4:6-7)

“Many who would willingly let themselves be nailed to a cross before the astonished gaze of a thousand onlookers can’t bear with a Christian spirit the pinpricks of each day! Think, then, which is the more heroic.”

--St. Josemaría Escrivá (***The Way***, #204)

“Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure ... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.”

--Theodore Roosevelt

“Thank God, that in his strength we drove back the enemy… To God our blessed Father in Heaven be all the glory.”

--Civil War soldier, 20th Indiana Regiment,

in his private diary[[3]](#footnote-3)

“Will-power. A very important quality. Don’t despise little things, for by the continual practice of denying yourself again and again in such things—which are never futile or trivial—with God’s grace you will add strength and resilience to your will. In that way, you will first become master of yourself, and then a guide, a chief, a leader: to compel and to urge and to inspire others, with your word, with your example, with your knowledge, and with your authority.”

--St. Josemaría Escrivá (***The Way***, #19)

“Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

--Christ (Mark 8:35)

“Be not afraid of welcoming Christ and accepting his power… Be not afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ… Be not afraid! Christ knows ‘what is in man’. He alone knows it.”

--Pope John Paul II

Pontifical Inauguration address

“Everything is possible for him who has faith.”

--Christ (Mark 9:23)

# For further reading…

James M. McPherson, ***For Cause & Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*** (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), Chapters 1, 5, and 12. Based on a study of over 25,000 personal letters and almost 250 personal diaries of Civil War soldiers.

Psalms 2, 18, 23, 27

1. Joseph D. Thompson, quoted in James M. McPherson, ***For Cause & Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War***, 64. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Lt. Col. (later Maj. Gen.) Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, quoted in McPherson, 65. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. James Stephens, quoted in McPherson, 73. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)