



The President's Perspective



COMMITMENT IS KEY

According to a Fox News report dated March 29, 2005, most soldiers injured in battle desire and plan to return to their units when they are cleared by their attending physicians to do so. Corporal Jemel Daniels, whose Humvee hit a makeshift roadside bomb, sustained severe injuries including “an amputated leg, a battered left arm and a shattered right foot now stabilized by painful pins.” None of his wounds have deterred his future plans. “I’m staying active duty,” says Daniels. Commenting on his plans to continue his military career, Daniels says, “I can’t see myself leaving. I’m TOO DEDICATED TO THE MARINE CORPS (emphasis mine). It’s done so much for me in the beginning. I’m not going to let this hold me down.”

This kind of selfless commitment to “the cause” is nothing short of heroic. How I wish that many in the church could learn a lesson from this kind of heroic commitment. From time to time, I meet someone in a local church that has been hurt by either another Christian or by some event that did not go their way. As a result, they have chosen to leave church and “sit out” for a while. This kind of thinking is, not only, selfish, it is self-destructive. The church, while made up of imperfect people, is none-the-less, God’s chosen agent for accomplishing His work in the earth. It is THROUGH the church that the gospel is carried to the ends of the earth. It is IN the church that we receive the much-needed fellowship that strengthens us for our task. How self-serving it is to forsake God’s prescribed plan and place just because we have been temporarily hurt. After all, life is not all about us. It is about a much higher “cause”-the cause of Christ.

I never cease to be amazed by the resiliency of our men and women in uniform. Their dedication to the cause and the corps are more than challenging. Their willingness to stay the course and remain committed, though they have sustained life-changing effects in their bodies, is motivating. As one military man said, “a life threatening injury does not mean that it is a career threatening injury.” May we not allow a temporary “hurt” to permanently “hinder” our effectiveness for our Commander-In-Chief, Jesus Christ.

Dave Kistler

President,

H.O.P.E. Ministries International
www.hopeministriesonline.com