



"If you're a Civil War buff, and at the same time enjoy inspiration, you will be greatly blessed by this book. Tuley takes the stories of the Civil War and shows the presence and hand of God intermingled in the lives of the soldiers and their families. These stories will stir your courage and patriotism."

Johnny Hun

Pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, GA

THE ADVENTURE, PATRIOTISM,
& SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS OF
THE CIVIL WAR

When the prospect of a war between the states became a reality, the average age of a young soldier was twenty-two. To an aspiring young man who was bored with "life on the farm," the romanticism and exhilaration of battle was an allurement. He soon tried the faith and physical stamina of all who crossed war's threshold. The threat of losing life and limb from a hailstorm of bullets and shrapnel was compounded by the ever-present danger of dysentery and all sorts of diseases with little means for treatment. In spite of these frustrating circumstances, many of the soldiers found great consolation and relief through prayer and reading the Bible. *Battlefields and Blessings* is a devotional book that opens a rare treasure chest of intimate thoughts and feelings illustrated from the private letters and diaries of men and women of faith during the Civil War period. The courage and faith examples of these "soldiers of Christ" will inspire both the mind and heart of every reader who desires to have a closer walk with God.

FERRY TULEY

**Stories of Faith
AND Courage from
THE CIVIL WAR**

**Battlefields
& Blessings**

**LIVING LINK
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A Brave Drummer Boy Who Impressed Sherman

A BRAVE DRUMMER BOY named Orion P. Howe served in the Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteers. Orion soon was in the thick of the battle at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Major General William Sherman was so impressed by this young man that he wrote a letter to Secretary Edwin Stanton to tell of his great bravery, which undoubtedly secured him a promotion.

When the assault at Vicksburg was at its height on the 19th of May, and I was in front near the road, which formed my line of attack, this young lad came up to me wounded and bleeding, with a good, healthy boy's cry: "Gen. Sherman, send some cartridges to Col. Malmborg; the men are nearly all out." "What is the matter, my boy?" "They shot me in the leg, sir, but I can go to the hospital. Send the cartridges right away." Even where we stood, the shot fell thick, and I told him to go to the rear at once. I would attend to the cartridges, and off he limped. Just before he disappeared on the hill, he turned

and called as loud as he could: "Caliber 54" I have not seen the lad since, and his Colonel, Malmborg, on inquiry, gives me his address as above, and says he is a bright, intelligent boy, with a fair preliminary education.

What arrested my attention then was, and what renews my memory of the fact now is, that one so young, carrying a musket ball wound through his leg, should have found his way to me on that fatal spot, and delivered his message not forgetting the very important part even of the caliber of his musket, 54, which you know is an unusual one.

I'll warrant that the boy has in him the elements of a man, and I commend him to the Government as one worthy the fostering care of some one of its national institutions. 276

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

—JOSHUA 1:9



WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN
The National Archives

Our God often calls upon us to take steps of faith that test our courage. The Lord will never lead us into areas where he has not prepared and equipped us for service.

A Child's First Letter

THE SWEET LETTER that Mr. Hope wrote to his little girl should remind us of the love of our heavenly Father toward his children.

Camp Cummings near Mobile, Ala.

Apr. 25, 1864

Dear Child,

It is with pleasure and delight that I write you a few lines, which will be the first letter you ever received and one too which I hope you will preserve until you can read it.

By the misfortunes of war, I have been separated from your Momma, but by the blessings of God, I hope to soon return to you, never more to leave you, until death shall separate us. My dear and only child, be a good girl, ever love and obey your affectionate Momma, and don't forget your first letter writer, who has not nor never will forget you, who daily prays to God, in his infinite mercy, to spare, bless and protect you amid the troubles of this world, and should you live to become old, may God bless you and prepare your soul in this life to go to that happy world after death.

Your Father,

P. M. Hope²⁹⁶

The apostle John used the terminology, "My dear children." He admonishes us to stay close to Jesus Christ so we will be confident at his second coming.

Soldier P. M. Hope looked forward with anticipation to heaven. In case he did not make it back home, he was anxious for his daughter to be prepared to go there. He wanted to meet her there some happy day. A good parent prepares his or her children for eternity.

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that, when he appears, we may be confident, and unashamed before him at his coming.

—1 JOHN 2:28

The Wildest Boy in the Regiment

CHAPLAIN ALEXANDER BETTS of the Southern army wrote in his diary concerning the death of a young man in his regiment who came to know Jesus before he died.

C. H. Ruffin, of Nash Co., wounded yesterday. Dies in my arms—in perfect peace. Charlie enlisted at 17, and perhaps, was the wildest boy in his Regiment. He was very respectful to me, but showed no signs of any care for his soul till April last. About the time I was disappointed in my hopes to go home, he began to seek my company and give good attention to preaching. He became deeply convicted and was happily converted and I took him into the Missionary Baptist Church, and sent his name to the home church the day I started home. If I had gone home at the time I first proposed, he might not have been converted. Just before he breathed his last I asked him about his case. He sweetly smiled and said: "Bro. Betts as soon as I die I shall go straight to my blessed Jesus." That was a happy moment to me. As I write about it in October 1896 the joy I feel pays me a thousand times for all the nights I ever slept on frozen ground, snow or mud.²⁹⁷

For Chaplain Betts, sleeping on frozen ground, snow, or mud was a small price to pay for the salvation of the many souls he led into the kingdom of Christ. Young Ruffin seemed to have no doubt about his departure nor his destination. He had settled the account and he was ready to meet Jesus face-to-face. All the things that used to be important to Betts faded away in light of the battle, and his purpose came into full view. For Betts, no amount of comfort could take the place of the joy of seeing men converted and prepared to meet Jesus!

Like Betts, we have a duty and mission to perform. It may mean hardship, discomfort, or even persecution. Whatever we must endure we can be sure that Christ has already been there before us.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

—PHILIPPIANS 3:7

Little Eddie, the Drummer Boy

GENERAL LYON of the Union army lost his drummer boy to sickness and was seeking a new one. He soon learned of a young boy who would like to enlist in his company.

The next morning a nice-looking middle-aged woman appeared with her young thirteen year old son. She was from East Tennessee. Her husband had been killed by the rebels . . . In the process of finding a way to earn a living she came up with a plan to allow her boy to use his talent in the army for a short time until she could obtain gainful employment.

The captain was about to express determination not to take the young boy when he blurted out, "Don't be afraid captain, I can drum." Admiring the young boy's confidence and discovering his very talented ability to play the drum, the captain accepted the mournful mother's offer. The mother's parting words to the captain were very emotional as she said, "Captain, you will bring him back with you, won't you?" "Yes," he replied, "we will be certain to bring him back" . . . It wasn't long until word was passed along that General Lyon had been killed. One soldier upon listening for the footsteps of the enemy heard a low drum beat coming from the underbrush of the ravine which sound much like little Eddie's drum. Upon investigating the noise, one of the soldiers from the First Iowa came upon little Eddie who had his back against a tree. It was apparent that both his feet had been blown off by a cannon ball. Lying next to him was a dead rebel soldier. The rebel soldier had been mortally wounded and fell next to Eddie. In compassion he had taken off his leather suspenders and tied them around the lower part of Eddie's legs to keep him from bleeding to death. The rebel soldier then turned over on the ground and died. . . .¹⁹⁶

I tell you the truth,
anyone who will not
receive the kingdom
of God like a little
child will never
enter it.
—MARK 10:15

Little Eddie's courage in battle reminds us of Jesus' illustration of children in relation to the kingdom of God. The desire of Little Eddie, the drummer boy, to bravely follow his commander into battle, no matter the cost should inspire us to follow our Lord with equal dedication.

A Slave's Prayer

A VIRGINIA SLAVE set himself to pray after he learned of Lincoln's promise of emancipation.

A Virginia slave, who had heard of the President's [Lincoln's] promise concerning the proclamation to be issued on the 1st of January, then only a few days in the future, was heard praying, and with great earnestness and a deeply affected heart thus;

"O God Almighty! Keep the engines of the rebellion going till New Year's! Good Lord! Pray, don't let off the steam; Lord, don't reverse the engine; don't back up; Lord, don't put on the brakes! But pray, good, Lord, put on more steam! Make it go a mile a minute! Yes, Lord, pray make it go sixty miles and hour! ('Amen!' 'Do, good Lord!' responded the brethren and sisters.) Lord, don't let the express train of rebellion smash up till the 1st of January! Don't let the rebels back down, but harden their hearts as hard as Pharaoh's and keep all hands going, till the train reaches the Depot of Emancipation!"¹⁹⁷

Christians should pray with the fervency of the slave in the South who longed for freedom. We read about the prayers of the Civil War leaders, but we seldom consider the cries of African-American slaves who prayed day and night with a determination that rivaled that of New Testament saints.

What could be accomplished spiritually in our churches and our nation if believing men and women would pray with fervency and determination until God opens the floodgates of heaven?

Therefore confess
your sins to each
other and pray for
each other so that
you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
—JAMES 5:16

Grant's Views of Divine Providence

AT THE TIME of Lincoln's assassination, Grant felt led to go with his family to Philadelphia at the close of the war; or else, he believed he would meet the same fate as Secretary of State William Seward, who was severely wounded. Grant said of this redirection in his life:

I am . . . a profound believer in a special and general providence that shapes the destiny of individuals and nations. ³⁸⁰

Grant had always recognized the moral evil of slavery:

Slavery was doomed and must go . . . Grant came to look upon war as a divine punishment for the sin of slavery; and God used human beings to carry out his purposes. "Thus," he said, "we see a special providence that shapes the calling and destiny of individuals, and we see a general providence that governs nations, yet all in such a way as not to destroy man's free agency." Grant was communicative to me on religious and Church matters whenever I broached these subjects. Few Christians were more conscientious and just than he was. ³⁸¹

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.
—HEBREWS 12:10

Grant had a profound sense of God's presence in the affairs of men. Like Lincoln, Grant also believed that the Civil War was a form of chastisement on the United States for tolerating slavery. We must remember that God disciplines those whom he loves. Out of the bloody Civil War came a nation that would be stronger and more united than it had ever been in its history. Through discipline, God makes us stronger and more resilient so we are not easily swayed by satanic opposition.

The Angel of Marye's Heights

ON DECEMBER 13, 1862, after the battle of Fredericksburg, Sergeant Richard Kirkland earned the name "The Angel of Marye's Heights." The following is a recounting of that story:

At the end of the day, when all fourteen brigades had been repulsed, and the dead and dying lay on the frozen fields in front of the stone wall, Sergeant Richard Kirkland of the 2nd South Carolina approached his commander General Kershaw. Sergeant Kirkland asked General Kershaw if he could hear the cries of the wounded on the other side of the stone wall and then he added, "I can't stand this! All day and all night I have heard those poor people crying for water, and I can stand it no longer. I . . . ask permission . . . to give them water."

General Kershaw looked at the young sergeant with his neatly mended uniform and his trimmed moustache. "You're likely enough to get a bullet through the head when you step over that wall."

The sergeant looked down at his muddied boots. "I know that," he said, as he looked the general in the eye, he added, "but if you'll permit me, sir, I am willing to try."

When Sergeant Kirkland stepped over the wall, Union sharpshooters lowered their barrels in his direction. Funny he wasn't carrying a weapon and if he was a scavenger why was he carrying all those canteens. Then Sergeant Kirkland knelt at the first wounded Union soldier and gave him water, then another, and another. Both sides watched in disbelief as what became known as the Angel of Marye's Heights ministered aid and water to the hundreds of wounded union soldiers lying in those fields. ³⁸²

Our Lord hears the distressful cries of his children. He not only saved but also he continues to help us in time of need. He lifts us up and carries us when we get weary.

In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
—ISAIAH 63:8, 9



General Lee's Final Order

NOTES

ONE DAY after General Lee met with General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse and signed a document of surrender, Lee issued the following statement to his armies: "After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources." He continued:

I need not tell the brave survivors of some many hard fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them.

But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from a consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to you His blessings and protection.

*With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.*³⁸³

Joshua stood before the Israelites ready to give his last orders before he died. What were his orders? He urged them to continue to serve the Lord, but they had to make a conscious choice. Then once they made up their minds, they must do their best to serve God with all their hearts.

With the beginning of a New Year, make a renewed resolve to serve God with new zeal.

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

—JOSHUA 24:15

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