



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

MOTTOS

A brief statement used to express a principle, a goal, or an ideal.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

Christians are in an ongoing battle against evil, wherein goodness and righteousness are continually opposed. Recently it occurred to me that some of the official mottos of the United States armed forces have application for Christian “soldiers.”

AN ARMY OF ONE (U.S. Army)

Personal responsibility to self, group (church) and leader (Jesus).
Be a working part of the body (church).

BE ALL YOU CAN BE (U.S. Army)

Find and use your potential for the Lord.

SEMPER FI (U.S. Marines) “Semper Fidelis” Latin for always faithful.
“Faithful” is what Christianity is all about.

ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Once one joins the followers of Jesus Christ, there’s no looking back.

NOT SELF, BUT COUNTRY “Non sibi sed patriae” often cited as the Navy’s motto.
Christians are to be Christ-centered, not self-centered.

ONE OVER ALL “Uno Ab Alto” (U.S. Air Force)

Regard one another as more important than self.
Have concern for others.
Bear one another’s burdens.
Do good to all men.

Communication: Life Blood of A Relationship

Most of us have experienced a problem with connections on the phone. Sometimes it may be that we can hear the other person but they can't hear us, or maybe we can't hear them. Unless there is a speaker and a listener there is no communication.

Communication is important in relationships such as marriage, family, among brethren, and with God. Each person needs to be a good listener as well as good communicator. Both are necessary. (Experience seems to indicate that being a good listener is the harder of the two: "... *my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak ...*" James 1:19.)

Communication is important in one's relationship with God. We speak to God through prayer. He speaks to us through His Word. These avenues of communication need to be kept open and used frequently.

SPEAKING TO HIM

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

1 John 5:14-15

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

LISTENING TO HIM

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 11:15

"This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!"

Mark 9:7

Be a good listener as well as a good speaker. God has promised to hear our prayers and we need to be willing to hear Him. We expect Him to answer our prayers; He expects us to heed His words. We need to be doers, not just listeners. There is a vast difference between being one who hears but doesn't act and one who hears and acts.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:22-25

***Be a good communicator with others, with brethren, with God!
Remember communication is the life blood of any relationship.***



DON'T WALK!

There are passages in the Bible that warn us about where not to walk. Why? Because of the dire consequences if one does.

ACCORDING TO THE FLESH

To walk after the flesh is to obey the carnal desires; to walk after the Spirit is to obey from the heart what the Spirit reveals in the Bible.

"... who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

Romans 8:4

BY SIGHT

Walk by sight and one only sees the here and now. Walk by faith and one sees what is beyond this life: life eternal.

... for we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

AS UNWISE

Not indulging in foolishness, but as one who relies on wisdom from above.

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.

Ephesians 5:15

IN DARKNESS

Walk in darkness (figuratively): ignorance, sin, and wretchedness; being under the influence of the prince of darkness.

Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

John 12:35



Her name was Jewel. She was a widow who lived alone. She had experienced numerous health issues (including heart trouble) during her 60+ years. She was only able to be out of bed for about six hours a day. One could easily feel sorry for her, but she wouldn't hear of it. She tended a small garden outside the back door of her modest apartment. She made quilts on a quilting rack in her front room (I still have one of them). She was always thinking of others. And she made it to church services regularly. I can recall seeing her sitting in the second row with a smile on her face, yet all the while knowing she was suffering.

Her determination, her cheerful disposition, and her genuine love of the Lord were something to behold. Now many years have passed and she is no longer with us, but I continue to draw strength from her example.

I'm sure there are those who have impacted your life in a positive way. Express your appreciation. Be grateful for what they have done. And be thoughtful of how you can impact the lives of those coming along after you. Maybe it would be good to put your thoughts down on paper – it helps one remember.

Follow Good Examples

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3:17

Be a Good Example

In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:7-8



Ponder This

Important Words

(Read Scriptural References)

SIX IMPORTANT WORDS: I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE

Admitting faults and shortcomings is necessary.

James 5:16

It clears way for forgiveness, correction, and the restoring of relationships.

FIVE IMPORTANT WORDS: YOU DID A GOOD THING

Recognize the good in others.

Philippians 4:14

Positive reinforcement promotes good behavior.

FOUR IMPORTANT WORDS: WHAT DID YOU SAY?

We cannot properly respond without first listening.

Proverbs 18:12-13

If one doesn't listen, there is no communication.

THREE IMPORTANT WORDS: IF YOU PLEASE

Gentle requests, not demands.

Philemon 1:8-14

Favors are acts of kindness, not payments of debt.

TWO IMPORTANT WORDS: THANK YOU

Gratitude: Being thankful for what you receive.

Colossians 2:6-7, 3:15

When we express thanks we show our appreciation.

ONE IMPORTANT WORD: WE

“We” not “I” is most single important word.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit. but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

Think in terms of interdependence.

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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Be thoughtful and kind!

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