

My Folly as a Christian Marine on this site...

I believe I have made a grave error in misunderstanding. I did not realize what I got myself into as a US Marine. I chose 3521, and later combined with LVS, and my MOS did not involve combat. My dad wisely convinced me not to go to Kuwait: He heard the Iraqis were using gas and didn't want me exposed to it. It may have been a mistake and probably was. As for me, I don't believe I was scared of combat. As an atheist at the time I did not fear much of anything. I was also lost.

I don't speak the truth here because really, I can't but being the crazed fool I was I don't think combat would have been good for me. It may have been the power of God, but I felt my hand was stayed when they asked for people to join the war. Instead I worked, perhaps twice as hard, in sending LVS's to Kuwait. I guess in a way I fought the enemy with a wrench.

While I don't have an excuse for the crime I got myself into; how my mind was not a mess from combat. Still I have an overseas with a star, spending 1 ½ years overseas putting my life at risk. I don't think I was a coward, though I don't know if that is what you might think. I put my feet on the yellow footprints right with the best of them and worked constantly often with little time to sleep after the work day was done. I made a mess of things, as I was not always a fine Marine. I did however earn my good conduct medal. After four years I made my exit. Looking back the higher powers really wanted me to stay. Oh the shoulda woulda coulda's, what would have happened? Eventually I probably would have ended up in combat and got myself killed. As an atheist that would have meant eternal damnation in hell.

I fully believe God had other plans for me even in failure. Failure can often make the Marine in us even finer. Right now I have a close relationship with God and I wouldn't trade that in for a Marine Corps retirement, or a whole lot of medals. I am poor but I have God. To me that is better. Here are some of my quotations I live by. They would never be penned by A Marine Corps General, or perhaps any other US Marine and that is understandable. These are not positive, though I think Job or King David or even the Prophet Jeremiah might be able to relate.

"The difficult can be done the impossible takes a little longer."

"Sometimes in life, what we think are the greatest defeats, are the greatest victories." "To win the war... Sometimes you have to lose major battles to gain victory to bring the war to an end."

- Dale Lee Gordon

*(author, poet, and artist; scholar of ancient Bibles)*

I have a Vietnam Veteran Marine friend who also attends my church. I have learned much from talking to him. I can relate to him because I too have dreams from the US Marines, and their for a while almost nightly. My experiences were nothing in comparison to what he went through. Still I feel without God in my life and being in the Marines I was a messed-up soul. I recall signing out of the Marines after four years of service. I almost thought, and perhaps did, that there was no "decompressing" from four years.

Even as a Marine I was programmed to kill. I had that attitude. I don't know if one soul can relate to me, perhaps not, and I don't expect any to relate to me. I feel as I am the fool and if you are familiar with my name and my crime perhaps you hate me. Sitting in a chair in court, and even next to the judge testifying, were not high moments in my life. Yes, I drank the best Pepsi of my life relishing in the moments with the DA and investigators giving all the goods against Todd Jessie Garton, then I felt power over my enemy. I think the suicidal moments were low although to be honest it was the training that was etched into my thoughts about using the system to escape evil cellmates since while in prison: I played the role of conscientious objector. I would not fight the enemy on a physical plain because I knew if I did I would never escape that place of hell. It was one verse that testified to me on fighting. As soon as I read the words of Jeremiah I gave up any notion to prepare for battle or to get strong.

(Jer 17:5) Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Little may be known to a great many US Marines is that God is a warrior. He may even be smarter than many great Marine Corps generals. How he has interlaced good with bad, mistakes with success, and heaven or hell is something I think few of us Christians have really learned. I preach King James and all that precedes that. If that means reading the 1388 Wycliffe that means that Bible. If it means the Latin Vulgate or Erasmus Latin that is the requirement. I do believe God uses our failures: For me it amounted to study time. As for prison it meant to study and to write. Am I a failure? By the world's standards most certainly! I created sites and books to tell you I love you. To this day no book has been purchased and only one site receives donations. None of those donations are for me but rather for orphans. See: <http://www.childrenministriespk.com/index.html> Am I a failure still? Yes, by the world's standards. I do not make money other than what I get from pension thanks to the Marines. I am not a popular person nor do I have fame: And nor do I want that. I don't want anything the Devil has to offer me. I will take my close net relationship I have with God over any of those trivial things. Amen...

What I have is love to give. That love is Christ centered. I pay each month for the orphan's food which cripples me. I pay an enormous amount for the ministries I have created. I read the Bible and I am in love with Jesus and God the Father. I have to go to food banks for food because I can't afford it. I do the best I can. I don't have a car. I don't own this RV trailer, and I don't have much other than a strong relationship with Jesus. I also have a strong love for Marines and other law enforcement. I just sent my Christmas card to the Redding Police Department in December of 2017. Earlier this year I sent them my Stop the Violence book as well as past letters and past Christmas cards. I could tell you how you are saved, how wickedness is alright, how sinning is okay, but with love I stand here and fight. I could say how you are healed, and God's light will be revealed, how it is okay to walk in the dark, how a little sin won't light a fire with a spark. Yes, God's love is real, and to thank God at your next meal. How a little leaven will rise the bread, and unless I tell you the truth I will end up in hell dead.

In conclusion I don't care if you call me a fool or a failure. I am still high on the first page of most browsers. In God's eyes I must be doing okay...! Amen.

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