Looking in the Rearview Mirror
November 11th, 2014

There are some things that I am not very good at and backing up my camper is one of those things. I commend the truck drivers and farmers who can back up equipment like it is no big deal. My first instinct is to turn the wrong way while looking in the rearview mirror.

Trying to drive forward with your eyes looking in the rearview mirror does not work very well either. Ever have someone tailgating you and you find yourself glued to that mirror only to suddenly look forward to see that bright red glow of BRAKES in front of you? That is a rush, isn't it? Especially if your spouse is next to you burying their fingernails deeply into your arm while screaming at the top of their lungs, "We're gonna die! Jesus, take the wheel!"

Of course, that never happens to me personally.

In our lives if we are fixed on the things of the past we are looking into the rearview mirror while trying to move forward. We tend to stare at details of the memories of past failures or past hurts. We are there again, living over and over again those harsh words, deeds, or actions. Our past failures stand like a giant monster, growling and looking ugly as they continue to call us "Failure!"

Everyone's life is a story. Everyone's life is important. Sometimes, the wounds and memories of the past are overwhelming and living back there again in the rearview mirror brings with it the sounds, the smells, the fear, the adrenaline, and the pain. It can be debilitating. It can stop people from moving forward. The future never seems so look good because the past looks so bad.

Today, as we honor the veterans who have served this country in the past and for those who are presently on active duty, I pray we all join in prayer for those who cannot seem to get their eyes from the rearview mirror where the pain kills them each day. The friends who had fallen and those left behind. The day a part of them stopped living as boys and girls became men and women when the innocence of childhood was blown apart by the cruelty of war.

A thank you to our veterans seems hollow at times. Maybe, just maybe, if we can stop for a moment and put on their boots, we will begin to honor the hallowed ground of giving a life for our friends and loved one's?

Today, may the veterans, past and present, never, never, be forgotten.

"...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead..." (A portion of the scripture from the apostle Paul to the Philippians).

May we all press forward to those things which are ahead and find the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus, the only One who can heal those wounds from the past.