Freedom Is Not Free!

The ghostly, pale gray figures ascend the small hill, ever vigilant, ever brave. Some carry rifles, some carry radios, but none ever move. I slowly climb the hill to the right, study their faces, forever frozen in time, and I contemplate my own freedom.

Then I notice the wall – mirror-polished red granite with figures that seem to be deep in the three-dimensional scene, some flying, some fighting, some doctoring – men and women of all nationalities - all engaged in the efforts of war. And I, like others beside me, see my own reflection, half dim, half clear, suspended among the soldiers as if I were actually ***in*** the granite scene… with the life-sized ghost-soldiers reflecting behind me and the granite wall soldiers in front of me.

As I top the hill the wall narrows to a focal point and I read the words, **"Freedom Is Not Free,"** carved deeply in the granite. Such were my first few minutes at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The meaning is painfully obvious. Those figures represent the spirits of those who fought and died in that conflict and many others to keep America free! They died so I, (yes, I personally) can be free from the harness of tyrants.

"Freedom Is Not Free" – the phrase sticks in my mind the rest of the trip back to Virginia and all week. I cannot help but remember Jesus' words from **John 8:32**, "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you **free**." "The truth." What truth? ***"The truth."*** The truth that Jesus died, voluntarily, in my place on the cross, so I can be free from the curse of sin and death.

Jesus, the Soldier ***on*** the cross is now calling me to be a soldier ***of*** the cross. Jesus, the sinless One, took my sin – all our sins – and bore them on His own back, on His own cross, so we can live ***free from the harness of that eternal tyrant, Satan!***

I was impressed by the stately Washington monument. I was in awe of the Lincoln Memorial. I was deeply moved by the World War II Memorial and shed tears at the Viet Nam Wall, but I was and am haunted by parallels of the Korean War Memorial and John chapter eight.

We all climb the hill of life – at the top is the cross – at the top is the crown – at the top is the Savior constantly reminding us "Freedom Is Not Free." It cost Jesus His life on earth to buy our eternity in heaven.

From the **Revolution** to today, for 250 years our soldiers have kept America free. From the **Resurrection** to today, for 2000 years, our Savior has kept us free.

Victory is at hand! Fall in. Soldiers of Christ, arise and put your armor on! (Ephesians 6.)

Ray Wallace