



MAY MEDITATION

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him."

1 John 5:1 ESV

FOUR MEMORABLE DAYS

Debbie Stankovich has been writing monthly stewardship articles since January. Thinking the congregation would like "a glimpse into the heart of the new Stewardship Team chair," she asked me to jump in and get my feet wet. I agreed but wondered – what should I put into print?

I answered my own question with one of the most uplifting experiences I've had. In July 1985, I served in the Ready Reserve of the Air Force. I flew to Norfolk, Virginia, for a two-week Cold War-era seminar on U. S. global security. I felt fortunate to be there amid the higher-ranking officers throughout the Air Force. The seminar was scheduled for two weeks, but I only lasted one. Here's what happened.

At the end of each week, all 350 participants were expected to take a written test on the lectures and written material introduced that week. I remember clearly being the last person to finish those 100 multiple-choice questions. Everyone else was already out the door, but not me. No, I tediously slaved through the test with my brain in slow motion.

Early that afternoon, I was taken to the Naval Clinic for testing. After an hour had passed, the doctor entered the room asking, "When did the chest pain leave you?" I answered his question, and he snapped his fingers and said, "You are having a heart attack right now."

I could not have imagined what happened during the following week. And this is why I share this incident. Day after day, I was bombarded in my hospital room with husbands and wives I had never met before and likely, in this life, would never meet again. It was obvious why they came. They knew I was chaplain/pastor. Each day I was in the hospital, it became more obvious that these people were fellow BELIEVERS!

I couldn't get them out of my mind. I didn't want to. It was like an arrow hitting the bullseye of that confession we make every Sunday morning; "I believe in **the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints.**" For me, this was a preview of heaven, a vindication of the Lord's hand in His coming final victory here on earth when the groom comes for his bride.

I'll conclude with Scripture. **"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children too."** (1 John 5:1 NLT)

Not only do we need each other as believers. ***We are the family of God, and if we really love the Lord, then we will love to be around His people.*** This, too, is stewardship. **IT TAKES TIME TO DO THIS.**

Pastor Paul