

DAY 22

STAND IN FRONT OF THE TANK

*"He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."*

--Revelation 21:4

*"nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more"*

—Micah 4:3

We once hosted a couple from China. They would come over to the house from time to time. He was in graduate school in the United States. But his brother is the one I really want you to know about.

His brother was a "now and not yet" man. He marched in the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising in Beijing. He stood in front of the advancing tanks in defiance of his totalitarian government.

Was he a Christian? I don't know. Regardless, as a young man created in the image of God, he was a "now and not yet" man.

At that moment in time he stood for qualities that we believe God stands for: freedom, liberty, and equality. Did his efforts change the government of China? Not yet. One day his efforts will bear fruit as nations no longer lift up sword against nations and people no longer learn war.

You may be called to stand in front of wrong—to block its progress. Or you may be a "now and not yet" person today—standing for the right, knowing that the right will come "now" or "not yet." Christ has come, and Christ will come again. Be prepared.

Going Deeper

Find the famous photo of a young man courageously defying the tank operator in Tiananmen Square in 1989. No, it's not a "Christian" image, but it surely will inspire you to take courage and be prepared for challenges in your life—now and not yet.

Almighty God, today and in the days to come, make me courageous for the truth of what is good and right. Grant to me a faith that stands confidently with you in a challenging world. Grant to me the hope that is assured of your provision in the challenging times. Grant to me the love that surpasses this world's understanding and is sufficient for every challenging moment. Place in me the courage and the power of your presence. In the name of Christ I pray. Amen.