

One Life to Lose for My Country  
By Joseph Baum

Cassie Bernall was like you or me. She liked snowboarding and Chinese food. And her goal was to become a doctor. She was simply a Christian kid who attended local Columbine High School near her home in Colorado and probably never dreamed her life would impact those of people around the world. But in a second she was confronted by a decision that she never thought she would have to make. She made it. And her quiet faith and courage, through the course of what appeared at first to be an ordinary school day, has inspired others to stand firmly for God and country in the face of evil.

The twentieth of April, 1999, was a Tuesday. Cassie went to school as usual and spend an uneventful morning there. Shortly before lunch she was studying with a friend. And then two young men ran into the room, armed with machine guns and explosives. They trained their sights on Cassie and asked her if she was a Christian. And Cassie said yes. They shot her to death. She was eighteen years old.

The prosperity of America is tied to her allegiance to God. Today we as young Christians must stand firmly upon our principles and recall our country to her biblical moorings. For only when American humbles herself and turns from her wicked ways will her sins be forgiven and her sacred honor restored. The simple answer Cassie gave that day evokes the legacy of Nathan Hale. Her story however provides a more tangible and dynamic channel through which to pose a challenge to every Christian teenager in America today.

Would you stand firm in the face of destruction? Would you say yes? The legendary last words of Hale echo through our heritage like the stroke of a pickaxe through a mine shaft. And those of Cassie Bernall inspire us to hold fast to our beliefs without fear or shame. Hale made the ultimate sacrifice. He died for liberty. And so did Cassie – in a way.

Today we face an adversary that is much more dangerous than the British redcoats ever were. A profound darkness threatens to extinguish our light. We struggle not against flesh and blood, but against the unseen rulers of this darkness. Today America needs one thing more than she needs patriotism. She needs God. And if we as young Christians are to reclaim our country the blessing of her Divine Patron, we must take up the shield of faith and stand firm in the face of evil. For we are a vestige of belief in a world of disbelief. And each one of us has been placed by God in this pivotal century and in this country to combat an evil that only He can defeat. Perhaps he has called one of us to make a sacrifice like Cassie's. Would *you* say yes?