

A Final Word

In *Citizen Kane*, the last word spoken by the dying Mr. Kane was 'rosebud'. Seeming to have a great mystery tied to it, it was simply the name of his sled that he played with as a child. Symbolically, it told us that all the fame and fortune won't make up for the innocence and joys of childhood.

Another movie with a gripping last word was *Braveheart*, in which Mel Gibson's character, William Wallace, shouts "F-R-E-E-D-O-M!" as his entrails are being removed from his body, right before he is beheaded. He truly was a brave heart, as he fought for freedom for his beloved Scotland and her people.

Perhaps our final words will be insignificant to others, as was 'rosebud'. Perhaps our final word or words will be full of great meaning and full of passion, like William Wallace's. Even more important to me are the words said about me, by those I leave behind. What will be said of me when I leave this life? I don't care what people I barely knew will say, but what will my family say? What will be my legacy to my children and my grandchildren?

I pray they will be able to say that I lived well. I hope they will be able to say that I loved others, as Christ showed his love for me. I hope they will remember me as unselfish and generous. I hope they will remember my laughter, as well as my tears. I do hope I won't be forgotten. As a writer, I have made a small contribution by self-publishing some of my books, so my grandchildren and those who follow may be able to know a small part of me. And there are the many photographs that have been collected over the years. I pray they will say I lived a good life.

More importantly, the words I long to hear more than any other... "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

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