

What does it mean to be a faithful warrior?

As a member of the US Armed Forces, you are a warrior and a member of an elite team. This team is responsible for defending your nation from those who seek to do it harm.

You are also a warrior for God's purposes. But before you can discover the plan and purpose God has for your life, you need to personally know the God who created your warrior heart. This is the way—the only way—to be truly spiritually fit and ready to serve.

Can a Christian kill someone?

In war, it is expected that one will have to kill. We often hear one of the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20:3-17, quoted as, "Thou shalt not kill." The Hebrew word for "kill" in these verses is RATSACH, and is more accurately translated "murder." As a result, the commandment should be read, "You shall not murder."

There is a big difference between killing and murdering. Murder is an intentional act of hatred, vengeance or retribution. The enjoyment or pleasure of killing another human being also constitutes murder, when these desires are acted upon.

ON MY WAY TO SURRENDERING

In April 2010, I was sent to Afghanistan to extract soldiers who had been in constant battle for nearly a year. This was no ordinary mission. The threat was high as many Americans had been killed by a fierce Taliban enemy. I was deployed as the lead JTAC to the Korengal Valley, dubbed the "Valley of Death" by U.S. forces due to the loss of 44 American servicemen.

I was inserted with two Special Forces teams into an extremely hot landing zone with over 200 Taliban fighters in the surrounding area. The heavily armed enemy forces executed over half a dozen ambushes from higher ground—this was an extremely difficult situation. Immediately upon arrival, I was able to bring fire from the sky and detonate bombs on multiple enemy positions. I had control of over 100 aircraft and directed the repeated bombing, rocket and strafe attacks. After 72 hours of continuous battle and absolutely no sleep, I realized that this was unlike any other battle I had ever been in ... this was a real fight for our own lives! There was no doubt that our enemy had demonstrated that they had the upper hand, as they were positioned on higher ground and were far more familiar with the battlefield than we were. And the Taliban were relentless with their constant machine gun attacks. They were determined to kill every one of us.

In the midst of all this incredible chaos, I had, nonetheless, a real sense that God was with me as He gave me a level of confidence that I'd never had before. I knew that the Lord had His guiding hand upon me. I also realized I wasn't wholeheartedly committed to Him, but he was committed to me. (Cont. on page 29)