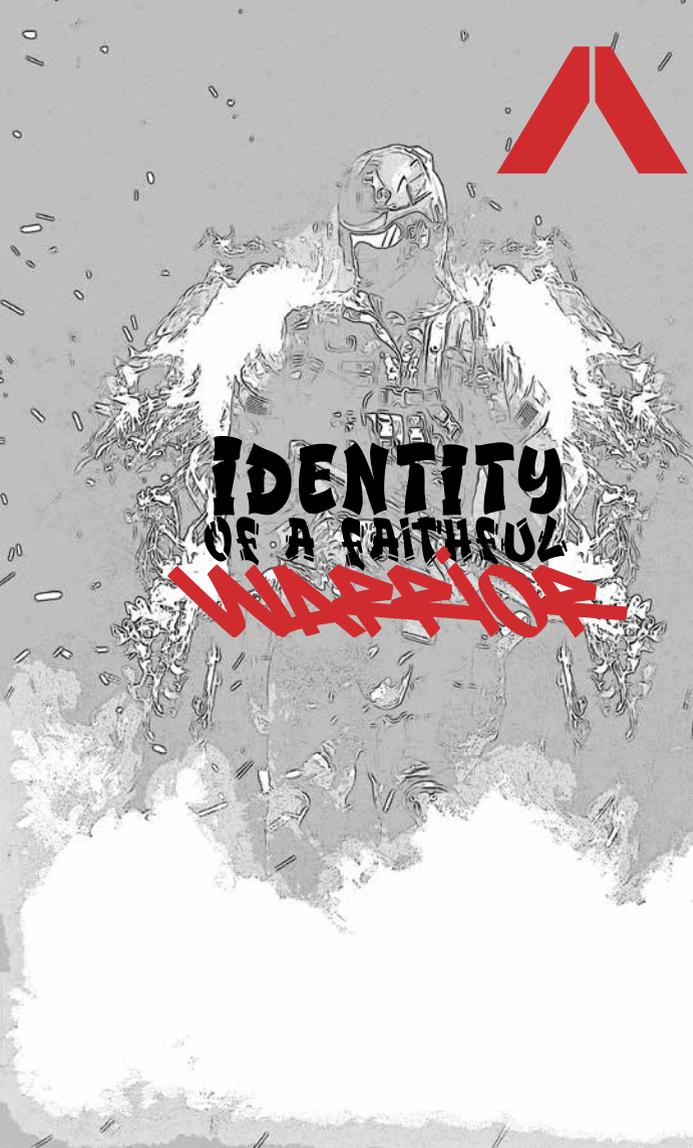
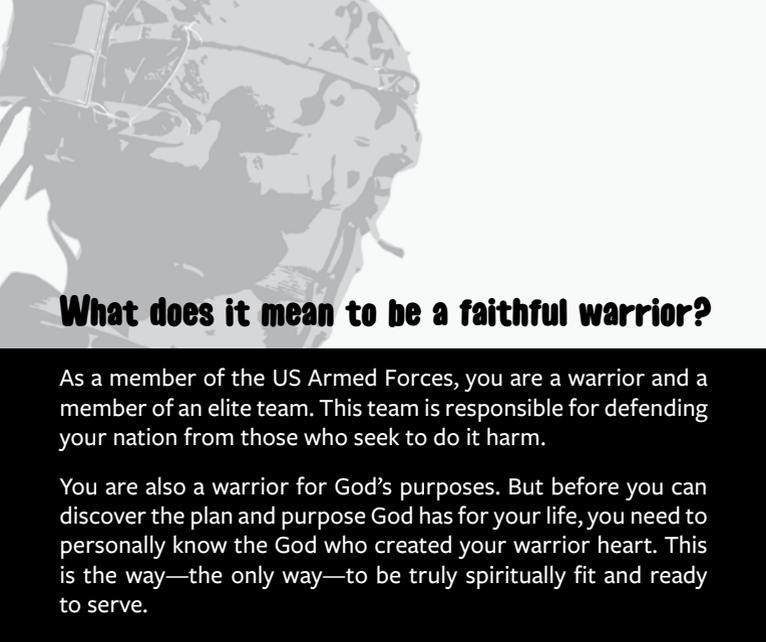


"FOR THE ONE
IN AUTHORITY IS
GOD'S SERVANT
FOR YOUR GOOD.
BUT IF YOU DO
WRONG, BE
AFRAID, FOR
RULERS DO NOT
BEAR THE SWORD
FOR NO REASON.
THEY ARE GOD'S
SERVANTS,
AGENTS OF
WRATH TO BRING
PUNISHMENT ON
THE WRONGDOER."

— Romans 13:4 (NIV)



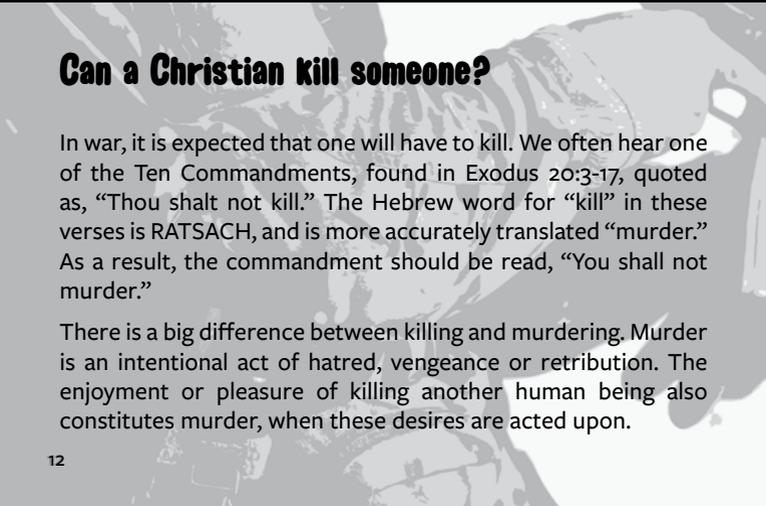
**IDENTITY
OF A FAITHFUL
WARRIOR**



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.

Taking God to War With Me

My platoon was tasked with clearing a single-lane dirt road along a particular canal that was fed from the Helmand River. In the 1950's, the Army Corps of Engineers had built these canals for the Afghans, to enable the district to be agriculturally productive. The majority of my route clearance operations were dismantled due to the nature of the IED threat. My platoon walked the roads and side trails with handheld mine detectors and an IED-detecting dog. When we had a vehicle to accompany us, I would put an experienced sweep team of mature and capable NCOs in the back to exploit known IEDs or weapons caches.

I was on the radio about 150 meters away when the blast occurred. One of my Marines had stepped on an IED. He was instantly killed, and another Marine was blown into the river, where we later found his body. I called the CASEVAC request, ran to the scene, and began to coordinate the recovery process. I spent the next seven hours keeping my Marines and higher headquarters informed and searching for the Marine who had been thrown into the canal by the blast.

IED casualties are always hard to take, and this was no exception. I hit rock bottom... I began to question why God would allow this to happen. During this difficult time, I was reminded that while I don't know why God allowed those two Marines to die, I can think of nine more casualties that we SHOULD have had in addition to the six we did sustain. We took two KIA's (Killed in Action) but should have had four more. Because of this reality, I knew God was with us, even in the midst of our losses. (Story continued on pg. 29.)

A warrior after God's heart...

- is a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20-21).
- is loyal to their Commander (John 15:14-17).
- fights for a just cause and defends the weak (Psalm 72:4).
- follows orders (Acts 13:22).
- prepares for the battle (Ephesians 6:14-17).
- guards their heart (Proverbs 4:23).
- has integrity (Psalm 15:1-5).
- is authentic (1 Timothy 2:15).
- lays their life on the line (John 15:13).
- rises to challenges (2 Timothy 4:2-5).
- makes a stand (Ephesians 6:10-13).
- provides for their loved ones (1 Timothy 5:8).
- finishes well (2 Timothy 4:1-8).
- worships God (Psalm 150:6).
- may have to kill, but does not murder (Exodus 20:13).

“So, God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them.”
— **Genesis 1:27 (NLT)**

Many attributes of God are described in the Bible, and one of them is that he is a warrior.

“The Lord is a warrior; Yahweh is his name!”
— Exodus 15:3 (NLT)

David was a king and a warrior. In the Old Testament, he is described as a man after God's own heart.

“The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people.”
— 1 Samuel 13:14 (NIV)

To be spiritually fit you too need to be a person after God's heart. If you're created in God's image and he is a warrior, then you've been created to be a warrior after God's heart.