



I watched an old WWII movie the other day which was sort of a documentary on a sub hunter warship in the British Navy. One of the interesting factors was how war changed the men. At the start of the war, men came from their bank, office and other assorted jobs, full of eagerness, smiles and ignorance of war. They had many feelings such as wanting people to be happy and wondering whether people liked them or not. Then they experienced the horrors of war. After many years of war at sea, the captain of the ship reflected his thoughts to another officer, "Now it doesn't seem to be a matter of feelings anymore. Now it's just a matter of killing the enemy. War is dehumanizing." By the end of the war they viewed life differently, more seriously, with little emotion.

This made me think of my father who had been in the war for 5 years. He looked at life differently than most people also, more seriously, with little emotion. Others I knew that were in war were like that too. They rarely talked about the war. It seemed to be a heavy burden that others couldn't fathom.

I then looked at myself to see how I've changed after years of exposure to a different kind of physical and spiritual reality. I wondered that if I had just sat out the spiritual war in some pew at the back of some church for the rest of my life like most Christians do, would I be different and think different?

The answer is yes.

Any war in any capacity causes change in the spiritual realm, in the physical realm and in a person.

Physical wars can be paused or end for a person; people get leave, tour of duty ends, retirement, prisoner of war, war ends, they get wounded and go home or they die in it.

In spiritual war, your 'Tour of Duty' is over when you die.

A person can take leave from spiritual war or decide they're too wounded and stop, but the enemy doesn't take a break or stop, unless it's a maneuver to trick you. They follow you to where you take leave or to where you decide to stop. We always know that truth in the back of our minds. The war always grinds on and on.

At times it doesn't seem to matter anymore as we wonder what's changed or what's benefited from doing spiritual warfare? Pestilence, physical wars, persecution in the world continues. People are more interested in the attractions of the world than the attractions of God.



After 2000 years, the world is still full of Christians like the Galatians, Philippians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians who prefer their pride, their false doctrines, their false leaders, immorality and running their assemblies like elite social clubs and businesses rather than under Father's perfect will and the Gospel truth.

Paul's epistles contain war warnings that are still ignored today so we could think, "Why bother warring for or try to teach people who don't appreciate what is done and even openly fight against us"? You can feel isolated and alone in your quest to be all that God wants you to be.

Baby Christians come into the war much like the sailors in the movie, full of smiles, eagerness, hoping people like them, wanting others to be happy and ignorant of war. Most Christians never go to war during their 'Tour of Duty'. Most sit in one denominational building all their life and never get involved with anything riskier than bringing their casserole dish to a potluck lunch. Blindly accepting everything they're told to believe. They're in a war, but never know it. Evil entities easily bash them around like paper puppets, leading them down wrong paths, giving them disease, divorce, financial problems and early death. Christian warriors try to warn them, like Paul did, but they prefer to wander around in their 'fog' of religion, under the 'covering' of some false leader or personal doctrine that feels good to them.

This teaching is to prepare those going to the war or those just in it as a warning and a 'head's up'. War changes you. You not only war against evil spiritual entities and the world, but you war heavily against indifference, 'fake-christianity' with its false doctrines and false leaders, and family and friends that attack you for being a 'God-pleaser' instead of a 'people-pleaser'. You also go to war within yourself.

Even following God's perfect will and His leading in battle, these battles take its toll. In physical wars people also get PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). Spiritual war can give a form of PTSD when thoughts of people who've turned against you or attacked you come to mind. To offset emotions, feelings and frustrations you can become dehumanized or indifferent, more serious with little emotion. This can lead to deciding to walk away from war and letting whatever happens happen as you can't and don't want to feel the effects of war anymore as you don't see an end. You may even want to give up and join a compromising Corinthian-like assembly and decide to ignore the truth, if only to smile and feel like people like you again and wanting to make others happy again. When your 'Tour of Duty' gets to this point, perhaps many times, go to Him for relief and healing!

Obtain comfort and healing from God. He knows what you're going through. Ask Him to restore you as He promises in [Psalm 23](#). He has the exact remedy for your battle scars, your PTSD, your frustration, your loneliness, your dehumanized mind. He has ALL you need!



Each warrior's 'Tour of Duty' is different than another's. God knows what you can endure and gives you strength to overcome and conquer as He sends you out. Ask for and seize His strength and healing oils and ointments to soothe you when you need rest and recovery. War changes you, but it doesn't need to defeat you! Good Hunting!