

THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR #1

Introduction

“A Call To The Battlefield”

In the year 1775, the Revolutionary War was waging as the American colonies worked their way toward independence from England and it wasn't going well.

In the hour of crisis, General George Washington spoke to the people...

General George Washington

The fate of the unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die.

These words need to live again today.

Once again, the fate of America is hanging in the balance.

But their fight was with a physical army; our fight is with spiritual wickedness in high places. And the fate of our future depends, under God, on the courage of an army to win the war. Here's the heart of my message...

Theme

The warrior spirit won America's freedom. We now live in a time that will require the warrior spirit to keep it.

Testimony

I was saved 50 years ago. I have been through many battles.

But I have never been in a battle like the one now for the soul of our nation.

The battle is not going well.

As we are watching our freedom taken away day by day,

I have 2 questions:

- 1. What will it take for the church to awake?**
- 2. How can we recover the spirit and soul of a warrior?**

I do believe the church is slowly waking up.

I do see other men of God rising up to ask the same questions.

R. Arthur Matthews, "Born for Battle"

My burden relates to the flood of evil that the devil is pouring into the world, and at the same time the passivity of many of God's saints as they view this state of affairs, and their ignorance of the part God expects them to play in this warfare against Satan.

Dutch Sheets

It seems that far too many Americans have lost the warrior's soul, both naturally and spiritually. Most people want someone else to do their fighting for them. Warriors, on the other hand, fight when necessary and push forward. They are willing to war for what they love and believe in.

I. Are We Willing For Warfare?

A. There is a High Cost For Cowardice

1. I spent many years studying the story of the Exodus; how God brought his people out of Egyptian bondage and into the Promised Land; the whole story is a natural picture of our spiritual deliverance in Christ.

2. Yet after all the miracles and their deliverance by the blood of the lamb and through the Red Sea, Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness! This was a journey that should have taken 2 weeks! I will never forget the day the Lord showed me this scripture...

Exodus 13:17-18 NLT

When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.

3. Consider the high cost of cowardice! Here is what happens when the people of God have not the soul of a warrior.

- Many of God's people wonder why they can't get a breakthrough

- They don't realize that God will not take you into your Promised Land if you are afraid of a fight!
- God had set them free from Egypt; but now they're in bondage to a wilderness because of a lack of bravery
- Notice the last line of the passage: "The Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle". They left Egypt LOOKING like an army ready for battle (on the outside) but they had not warrior soul (on the inside)

4. The Psalmist says the same thing happened many years later with the Tribe of Ephraim.

Psalm 78:9 NLT

The warriors of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned their backs and fled on the day of battle.

a. Here we have mighty Ephraim, one of the largest tribes, the tribe that produced Joshua: they looked like warriors, they had all the weapons, but they turned their backs and ran ON THE DAY OF BATTLE.

5. This reminds me of the American Church; we look like an army; but we don't act like an army.

a. I play golf; and I can dress up to look like a pro golfer; but when the game is on you know I'm not.

6. The game is on; and God is going to reveal who has the soul of a warrior and who doesn't. This is what He does in hard times. Let me talk about that a bit.

B. Weak Men Create Hard Times

1. I recently read one of the wisest words I've heard in a while that didn't come out of the Bible.

G. Michael Hopf, "Those Who Remain"

Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. And weak men create hard times.

2. The more I meditate on this one the more I see how it describes a kind of 'circle of life'; it is how the world works.

3. Let's work through this. First: Hard times create strong men.

a. Think of how many heroes of the faith came forth in hard times!

- Noah-built an ark and saved the world in a time of universal wickedness
- Joseph-betrayed by his brothers, sold as a slave, molded as a king in a prison
- Moses-sent by God to confront the mightiest political powers on earth

b. Think of how hard times created strong men in American history.

- The Pilgrims
- George Washington and the Founding Fathers
- All the great patriots of the World Wars

**Hard times create strong men.
Strong men create good times.**

c. God uses hard times to create strong men; and strong men create good times.

d. This is what happened when God raised up President Trump to create good times out of the hard times the previous President brought us into. He was a strong man who created a good time.

4. But there is a problem with good times:

**Good times create weak men.
And weak men create hard times.**

a. The notorious Italian politician Machiavelli said this about how the children of strong kings let the soft life make them weak.

Niccolo Machiavelli

When they began to think sovereignty as hereditary, the children quickly degenerated from their fathers; and, so instead of trying to equal their father's virtues, they considered that a prince had nothing else to do than to excel all the rest in idleness, indulgence, and every other variety of pleasure.

b. We see this cycle 7 times in the Book of Judges.

- God would bless His people (Good times)
- But good times created weak men and the nation would backslide
- The weak men then created hard times and they would cry out to God
- Then God would use the hard times to create strong men; like Gideon and Samson
- The strong men created good times for a while; but then the cycle would begin again!

5. This is exactly what has happened in America; our prosperity has put us in peril. We took God's goodness for granted.

- The church went to sleep
- The Christians didn't vote
- Our good times created weak men and we ended up with weak men getting elected

6. Now weak men are creating hard times!

a. Not just weak men in political office-weak men in the pulpit-weak men in the pews.

b. These weak men are creating hard times

c. The good news is that God will use these hard times to create strong men again.

7. God will not deliver us with 'chocolate soldiers'! 100 years ago, English evangelist C.T. Studd wrote a book about pantywaist Christians; he called them 'chocolate soldiers' because they melt quickly in the heat of battle.

C.T. Studd

Heroism is the lost chord of present-day Christianity. Every true soldier is a hero. A soldier without heroism is a chocolate soldier. And who has not been stirred to scorn and mirth at the very thought of a chocolate soldier?

a. Studd wrote about how peace and war relate to the Christian life.

b. He tells us how, in a certain sense, God's people never really come into their own without an element of the warrior spirit.

C.T. Studd

In peace true soldiers are captive lions, fretting in their cages. War gives them their liberty and sends them, like boys bounding out of school, to obtain their heart's desire or perish in the attempt. Battle is the soldier's vital breath! Peace turns him into a sleeping asthmatic. War makes him a whole man again, and gives him the heart, strength, and vigor of a hero.

C.T. Studd

A soldier without heroism is a chocolate Christian, dissolving in water and melting at the smell of fire. Sweeties they are, bonbons and lollipops.

c. America's greatest WWII General George Patton told his troops:

George Patton

You must acquire the soul of a warrior.

8. This war will never be won by chocolate soldiers.

a. England Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was known as the "Iron Lady"; here's what she told her people a generation ago:

Margaret Thatcher in 1979

"The choice facing the nation is between two totally different ways of life. And what a prize we have to fight for: no less than the chance to banish from our land the dark, divisive clouds of Marxist socialism and bring together men and women from all walks of life who share a belief in freedom."

9. The battle is on. The stakes have never been higher.

III. Close

A. Rules of Engagement

1. Before we close, we need to establish some 'Rules of Engagement'.

2. The Kingdom of God has many paradoxes and this is one of them.

Christ calls us to love our enemies; commanded to seek peace with all men. And at the same time, we are called to a battle. But it's a spiritual battle!

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

a. We must never forget we are dealing with the devil! Not flesh and blood!

Ephesians 6:12-13

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

3. This is spiritual warfare; but these demonic powers work through human beings that we must also oppose.

Dutch Sheets

We must war against the kingdom and powers of darkness, false ideologies, and the strategies spawned by both. Also, though 'we wrestle not against flesh and blood', we must boldly oppose, through spiritual weapons, those individuals who war against Christ's cause. To be an agent of change, we must *possess the heart of a warrior.*

4. Let me close with something the Lord gave me this morning-He took me to the story of Elisha and his servant when they were surrounded by an enemy army and seemed hopelessly outnumbered.

2 Kings 6:15-18

And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

- a. Many of us who know the score are asking this right now!
- b. And here is what we need to hear...

2 Kings 6:16-17

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:18

So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

5. Do not fear! There are more with us than with them! Pray!

General Michael Flynn

The most powerful weapons system known to man is prayer.

Closing Prayer

Title

PRAYER POINTS

- **God open our eyes-awake your church**
- **Raise up an army with the soul of a warrior**
- **Use these hard times to create strong men**
- **Bring your 'David's', your 'hidden heroes' to the battlefield!**