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# CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

"NO MAN THAT WARRETH ENTANGLETH HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE, THAT HE MAY PLEASE HIM WHO HATH CHOSEN HIM TO BE A SOLDIER."  
II TIMOTHY 24

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## THE MILITARY MENTALITY PART 1

**JOSHUA 17:1** THERE WAS ALSO A LOT FOR THE TRIBE OF MANASSEH, FOR HE WAS THE FIRSTBORN OF JOSEPH: NAMELY FOR MACHIR THE FIRSTBORN OF MANASSEH, THE FATHER OF GILEAD, BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN OF WAR; THEREFORE HE WAS GIVEN GILEAD AND BASHAN. [NKJV]

According to this verse, God gave two prime pieces of real estate to this man Machir for no other reason than he was described as a man of war. I want you to understand that God has not changed in this regard. He is still ready and

willing to handsomely reward those of his children who have and protect a military mentality. This is a kind of mindset that God is pleased with, as we can see here in this verse of scripture. If you want to be meet for the Master's use in

these last days, I encourage you to get – and keep – a military mentality when it comes to your life on earth.

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 YOU THEREFORE MUST ENDURE HARDSHIP AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST. NO ONE ENGAGED IN WARFARE ENTANGLES HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE, THAT HE MAY PLEASE HIM WHO ENLISTED HIM AS A SOLDIER. [NKJV]

God calls us soldiers who must endure hardships in this life. If we're soldiers, we're in an army – the army of the Lord. And although many Christians talk about that army, and sing about that army, very few of us actually live like we're in an army at war! And when I saw how God rewarded Machir because he was a man of war, I began to meditate on what it means to have and live with a military mentality – as it pertains to the things of God.

The Lord began to show me the parallels between nations at war, and the body of Christ at war. In the natural, when nations such as the United States goes to war, things change. Priorities change. The economy changes. The national “psyche” changes. Before the war was declared, the peace-time mentality focused on growth, advancement and the acquisition of the “better life”, whatever that means. But when the USA goes to war, things like that change. As an example, we were one country on December 6, 1941. We were a totally different country on December 8,

When we went to war against Germany and Japan in 1941, one of the first things we did was to ration our resources. Many of the things commonly available before the war were no longer available. As an example, no one built cars during the war. You couldn't buy a new car during the war because no cars were being made. The car companies all shifted over to the war effort – making tanks, planes, bombs

1941. After Pearl Harbor, we were different. We were at war. We were one country on September 10, 2001. We were a totally different country on September 12, 2001. After 9/11/01, we changed. Everyone (at least the intelligent ones) realized we would never be the same after that attack. And sure enough, we are different now. We are not the same.

I visited Washington, DC in the fall of 2007 for ministry, and after Sunday services were finished, my hosts and I took Monday to go into the district to check out some of the monuments, sights, etc. Now I had been in the DC district back in the early 1990's, when I came into the area to speak for another church, and at that time as well, we had all gone into the city the day following the conclusion of ministry. Well, let me tell you, if you haven't been to Washington DC lately, you're in for a shock! You can't just walk around anymore like before 9/11/01. There are barricades everywhere. Metal detectors. Security guards patrolling all over the place. Its not the same

### #1 RATIONING

and bullets. Things like sugar and flour were practically non-existent for the average citizen. And people had this general understanding that we would have to do without for as long as war went on – that anything and everything we possessed had to be available for the war effort if needed. Women were told during World War II to save all their used frying fat. After making fried chicken as an example, they would take the

place as it was in the 1990's. What happened? What changed? We were attacked. We realized as a nation that we had enemies who would stop at nothing to steal, kill and destroy Americans, not just abroad, but on our own soil as well. So, as a result of that, you see a different capital city than the one from before the terrorist attacks of 9/11. After Pearl Harbor, we realized we had enemies! We woke up as a nation, and went to war. And when we did, priorities changed, and that's what you need to see now – as a soldier in God's spirit-army.

Let me start in this first installment of this teaching to give you the first few of at least 7 parallels we can draw from how our own country has gone to war, and how the body of Christ is to wage war today in the Name of Jesus. My examples will be mostly taken from how we were as a country during World War II, but there will be references to our national mindset during the Cold War of the 1950s and 1960s as well.

frying fat, pour it through sifters into cans, and the boy scouts would come through the neighborhood collecting the cans. Why? Because the war department could use the used frying fat to make nitro glycerin to make bombs! Tires, rubber, scrap metal, old appliances – everything was surrendered to help our government win the war. This is the kind of mindset most Christians do not have today.

PSALM 50:5 “GATHER MY SAINTS TOGETHER TO ME, THOSE WHO HAVE MADE A COVENANT WITH ME BY SACRIFICE.” [NKJV]



In this verse, God plainly tells us who He wants to hang with, reveal Himself to, and work with in this earth. He looks for those who make a covenant with Him by sacrifice. By what? By sacrifice! In other words, God isn't impressed with people who give conveniently in this spiritual warfare. We can see this with the widow who gave just a few cents in Mark 12:41-44. Many rich people put in a lot of money, but Jesus

said the poor widow put in more than all of them combined. How did Jesus come to that conclusion? Because of the measure of sacrifice when the gift was given. The rich gave much, but had much left over. The widow gave little, but had nothing left over. Therefore in God's eyes, she gave more – much more!

As a soldier of Christ, you must be willing to

sacrifice for the war effort. Your time, talent, education, abilities, money, resources, assets – everything for the war! God will probably not ask you for your home, or your car, or whatever, but if He does, you must be willing to unhook! Don't be like the rich young ruler in Mark 10:21,22. When he had the chance to go with Jesus, he couldn't do it because he loved his possessions too much.

## #2 VIGILANCE

On December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001, our country was caught by surprise. Many lives were lost as a result, and we were thrust into war. Once that happened, our country was no longer sleep walking, pretending the enemies out there

didn't exist. We became much more vigilant. Do you know that after war was declared in 1941, citizens of Minneapolis, MN would volunteer to patrol the skies at night, looking for German bombers! Never mind the fact that Germany

didn't even have bombers that could fly that far to attack us. The people were just wanting to make sure nothing like Pearl Harbor would ever happen again – that we wouldn't be caught by surprise again.

**ROMANS 13:11** AND DO THIS, KNOWING THE TIME, THAT NOW IT IS HIGH TIME TO AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP; FOR NOW OUR SALVATION IS NEARER THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED. [NKJV]

What are we to do, knowing the time in which we live? We're to wake up! We're told to watch and be vigilant against the attacks of the enemy. This passage tells us its high time to awake out of sleep! Too many believers are asleep at their

posts, and the enemy is having his way against them. We must wake up, and be much more vigilant. These are the last days, and we must be ready at all times, waiting and expecting Jesus at any moment! In several places, Jesus admon-

ished us to watch and pray. Mark 4:19 tells us not to allow the cares of this life to choke God's Word in us. Mark 13:33 tells us to watch and pray, expecting Jesus at any minute. Is this your mindset today? It needs to be!

## #3 DON'T MAKE YOURSELF AN EASY TARGET

On the battlefield, soldiers are trained to keep moving – never to become a stationary target. We must do the same spiritually. If you have areas in your life that have been areas of chronic failure and sin, you must shore up your defenses in those areas! Don't give the devil free am-

munition against you by making poor choices with where you go, who you spend time with, and what you watch with your eyes. The movie theater doesn't reach out and grab you – you choose to buy the ticket. The internet doesn't force you over to porn sites – you make the

choice to go there. The food doesn't just jump in your mouth – you choose to buy it and eat it. The TV doesn't turn itself on – you do it! The point is – make yourself a hard target to hit by continuously monitoring your life, making wise choices with your time each day.

**PROVERBS 22:3** A PRUDENT MAN FORESEES EVIL AND HIDES HIMSELF, BUT THE SIMPLE PASS ON AND ARE PUNISHED. [NKJV]

Do you know that during WW II, all shoreline lights were darkened. People painted their windows black, or put thick curtains over them. Why? So that if there were enemy ships out there in the darkness, they wouldn't be able to target shoreline installations with the lights being lit up. For more than four years, along the East coast,

West coast and gulf of Mexico, our shorelines were dark! There were people patrolling neighborhoods, making sure no lights were on – even candlelight!

Make sure you foresee evil. Make sure you don't give the enemy free ammunition to use against

you. Stay vigilant, and don't make yourself an easy target.

Next issue of Christian Soldier, we'll look at more parallels between our nation at war, and the body of Christ at war. I look forward to it, and I hope you are too.



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**MIKE KEYES MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**  
P.O. BOX 91916 TUCSON, ARIZONA 85752-1916 USA  
PHONE: (520) 575-0094 x123 FAX: (520) 797-6793  
EMAIL: [contact@mkmi.org](mailto:contact@mkmi.org) WEBSITE: [mkmi.org](http://mkmi.org)