



YOU'RE IN GOD'S ARMY NOW!

Many of you and your families have embarked on a new adventure. You have entered into another phase of the battle here on earth and the greater battle in the heavenly realms. As Paul said in **Ephesians 6:12**, "for the struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Although you may not be headed into conflict in Iraq or Afghanistan; many of you have entered a higher level of the spiritual battle zone and these battle zones are many and varied. Some of you have entered new schools, began your marriage as newly weds or assumed increased levels of responsibilities on your jobs.

Since you are "commissioned" to enter into this battle, you can expect a number of skirmishes. Every battle has its crisis point. The point when you just want to throw up your hands and give up. The question is, "When crisis enters into your life will you view this as a time that may seem unfair and just to be tolerated, or will you view this as a challenge allowed by God for His greater purpose?"

For example, mothers will no doubt face the unexpected. Your children will have to deal with issues in school, or housing may be a problem. Your husband may be deployed and you may struggle to fill two roles while continuing to focus on spiritual connectivity with him a world away. The battle is real, and it is spiritual.

For those entering new spiritual operational assignments, there is one thing for certain: there will be crises. You will have short-notice deployments, training will be demanding. You see, when deployed in this spiritual war on terrorism, the pressures of mounting combat operations will be intense. You

can expect to deal with the casualties of war. That is a part of being a leader and part of "exercising biblical leadership."

So, how prepared will you be to deal with crisis? Will you react under your own strength or will you call upon the Lord to carry you through His plan for your life for His purposes?

Yes, you were called by God for a purpose in His army and that purpose may not be easy or even clear, especially during a crisis. You may ask, "Why another deployment, why a sick child, or why did one of our troops die?" As David Jeremiah said, "Destructive moments are often divine appointments." Battle with the enemy is not intended to be easy here on earth, but the "world system" is not our "lord"; Jesus is Lord of our life and we can have it more abundantly. In spite of any crisis you encounter, as a Believer, you should have hope. The apostle John says, "...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

As a member of the military, you were "commissioned" in the Army of God as family and as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The crises in your lives will be challenging, but they are for His purposes and for the purpose of shaping you in His image. So praise the Lord as you take on the great "commission" and the next new assignment the Lord has prepared for you. In the words of the apostle Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Rejoice again I say in the Lord!" You are indeed already victorious and more than a conqueror!