

ROEVER

foundation

April 2019

A Spiritual War



Many years ago, I sat with the then, Commanding General of Fort Hood Army Base, one of the largest military installations in the world, and listened while he clearly defined the objectives of the Global War on Terrorism. I was amazed to hear how vehemently he declared that the war was a physical war and not a spiritual war. While listening, I realized he was defending a position that had been questioned at some point in his career. How could he ignore that the war was not against a country with borders but against religious fanatics who would do anything necessary to kill the infidels! Infidels being defined as anyone who did not accept their religious beliefs.

Was the general right? Out of the almost 3,000,000 American military men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, 7,000 were killed, and of those who returned home more than 50,000 suffered injuries. There were almost 500,000 civilian casualties. The reality of the global war being fought with physical/carnal weapons is evident.

However, the truth is, that it was and continues to be a spiritual war! This war will never end. It is spiritual through and through. Fighting the war with carnal weapons is guaranteed to be a failure. Because some president declares the war is over, does not mean the dead come back to life and the wounded recover. The battle for the heart and mind continues. Our soldiers fought a war with M-16s and came home devastated. Estimates range from 5% to 23% of our warriors suffer from PTSD. That means from 150,000 to almost 700,000 warriors continue to fight a *spiritual battle* from a physical war. Suicides are increasing annually. On an average, every day one active duty service member takes his life, but among our veterans, 22 warriors will take their lives. Each day! Every day!

The Commander of the Oklahoma National Guard put it like this, "Our troops stare into the darkness, until the darkness stares back." When light is extinguished, hope is lost. And life has no meaning. I know what it is to stare into the darkness, to wrestle with the memories of the dead and dying, to awaken from sleep with perspiration soaking

my body. I have encountered the demon of suicide face-to-face. I am familiar with our warriors' path. I have walked where they have walked, but I am miles down the road. I have overcome! The scars I bear on my body only reinforce my message of hope. They listen to me because they know, that I know, how they feel. That is why our programs are so effective! That is why I am continuously called to military installations around the world, not because I was injured, but because I overcame.

Does the message of an overcomer that I share with the troops sound slightly familiar to you? Well, it should. You see, I share the message of another who said, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

I have often said that you don't have to go to war to get hurt. I went to Vietnam and was injured. For that injury I received a Purple Heart (medal). Some of you went to a different war. One fought in the home. You went to divorce court and received a broken heart.

An overcomer is one who succeeds in dealing with or gaining control of some problem or difficulty. It doesn't matter whether that something comes from Southeast Asia, the Middle East or Main Street America. There are thousands of ways to be hurt but only one way to be healed. His name is Jesus!

I am appealing to your hearts and minds to demonstrate your willingness to stand by our program, Operation Warrior Reconnect, and help us reach these damaged young men and women before it is eternally too late. You would only have to be a few moments in one of our programs at one of our Eagles Summit Ranch locations to discover the power of what we do in delivering these young men and women from the darkness brought home with them from the Middle East. I'm not beneath begging on behalf of the broken troops, but, I am asking for your support. If ever in the history of this ministry, I need your support, it is urgently needed today. We must supply the spiritual weapons needed to defend the territory of the soul and spirit that is in dire need of victory over the darkness that has stared into their lives. They are staring back into that darkness. Can I count on your support today? Believe me when I tell you it is urgent. Thank you for standing with me on behalf of our wounded heroes. Please give generously.

STRESS FACTORS of Snowflakes

Since the 1800's the term "Snowflake" has been used to describe people of various political opinions. Over the years, it has morphed as to meaning, but it has now nested upon the heads of the current millennials known as Generation Y.

Recently, I read a statement that was spot on. I don't know who first said it, or I would give credit to that person. It goes like this... "Adults are the clouds the snowflakes fell from!" Other idioms imply the same thought – the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

What these ideas are suggesting is the truth of generational likenesses. The moral bar set, high or low, will be emulated by the next generation with the added impulses of their own behavior, be it good, bad or ugly.

What has been recently revealed is somewhat of an embarrassment to my generation's inheritance to the Millennials. Ready for this? The top stress factors in the lives of the youth of today overwhelmingly reflecting what is most important to them are...

1. Loss of wallet
2. Loss of iPhone
3. Poor WiFi
4. Loss of iPhone charger
5. Dead iPhone battery.



I wonder if loss of moral compass would apply. How about loss of integrity? Where does loss of identity figure into this new generation's moral bank account? Morally bankrupt might describe them best.

Am I pointing the finger at the kids? You missed the point if you think so. Remember the cloud from whence the snowflakes fell.

The labels that we stick on generations reflect our opinion of the historical slot where they fit. Baby Boomers followed the WWII generation known as the Greatest Generation. Baby Boomers also followed the biggest boom in history... the atomic bomb which blasted an end to WWII. Out of the chaos of world war came the greatest economic recovery ever experienced in history. Savings accounts grew along with a booming stock market. Men craved possessions - homes, cars, boats and planes. Entertainment blossomed with the invention of television, and silver screen idols were worshiped.

The Baby Boomer generation then added their impulses to the assets of the Greatest Generation. Those impulses include a sexual revolution with a drug-crazed frenzy for euphoria in a search for pleasure.

In the Bible there is a story of a man named Elimelech, whose name meant "Our Lord is King" who married a woman named Naomi whose name meant "Pleasure." Elimelech and Naomi had two children whom they named Mahlon and Chilion. Their names meant "Sickly" and "Pining Away." The meaning of names was very important in bible days. Names often told the story of why or how the individual was born.

Therein lies a hidden truth about the very subject of which I'm writing. When "Our Lord is King," marries "Pleasure," the product of an unholy wedlock will inevitably be a generation of sickly children looking for an anesthesia – any drug or alcohol to dull the pain. A generation of children pining away, complaining how hard life is without WiFi and iPhones. Snowflakes melting under the "stressure" of the loss of the trivial comforts of life. Wanting something for nothing. Having an itch with no scratch. Living with no comprehension of the brevity of life or the permanence of death.

Is it any wonder that suicide is at an all-time high among our youth? Is all lost? Is there any hope?

Our country is damaged through suicide, death by overdose, alcoholism, and sexually transmitted diseases as a nation seeks pleasure. How can anyone claim we are on the road to wellness and prosperity when the daily news feeds are saturated with hatred and murder! Political parties vomiting their hatred of each other only serve to make matters worse. Both parties are to blame. Government cannot solve the issue of a broken spirit.

It is time for the Baby Boomers to grow up! Our Snowflakes are melting!

As I travel among the youth of this nation conducting public school assembly programs, I meet the sweetest kids. I am impressed by their intelligence. After all they carry a wealth of information around in their pockets through their iPhones. They can go online and research anything. YouTube will show them a video of how to do anything their hearts desire, and if they want more involvement they just buy an app.

Yet with all this knowledge, they are plagued with many of the same problems their parents and grandparents faced: drugs, alcohol, gang violence, bullying, etcetera, etcetera. These are all issues of the heart and until the heart is changed the issues continue.

You can make a difference and stop the Snowflakes from melting by becoming involved in their lives and setting better examples.

Pray this month as I speak to our public school students.