

1-24-10

Reflections

**The Reserves Are
Being Called to
Service**



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In times of peace many join the military reserves to earn extra income, receive special training, and to help when disasters strike and people need assistance. Some seem to forget that they are still part of the military and must answer the call if needed during wartime. Many express dismay when “called up” because that was not part of their expectation when they became part of the reserve military structure. Their oath of service, however, requires them to report even for wartime duty. Today we are at war and our reserve units are, in fact, being “called to service” and must answer the call as their oath of service requires. It may be personally disruptive and inconvenient, but they must set aside their personal agendas, plans, and even jobs to report for duty. Their lives are placed on hold and perhaps even jeopardized if they are assigned to combat duty, but as part of the military, they must still report for service and they need our prayers.

While our country is at war militarily, we as disciples of Jesus are involved in a spiritual war. The enemy seeks to capture and destroy as many souls as he can and he uses overt lies, subtle deceptions, doubts, and temptations to try to carry out his “mission.” Peter characterizes this evil mission when he reminds us...⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1Peter 5:8 NKJ)* Paul, likewise, reminds us that we are in a spiritual battle. *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² 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. (Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJ)* In these perilous times, we are being “called up” for carrying out the mission given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has given us our great commission... *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,*

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJ) As those who have received Him and the gift of His salvation, we are to be trained spiritually to serve in His authority against spiritual adversaries.

Our training is to be found in His Word, empowered by His Spirit, and exercised in our daily walk as His children. We are to walk in faith, in obedience, and in His power as we reach out in His name to those who are lost. We cannot be content to be merely “peacetime” reservists, but rather, we must be prepared to enter the battle for men’s souls. It then is incumbent on us to take our training seriously in order to be ready and effective when we see the battle raging all about us. The lost need the gospel and we have been given the commission to carry it to them.

I cannot remember a time when the spiritual warfare was as intense as it is in our current time. It makes the words of Jesus all the more relevant for our day when we read what He said to His disciples. *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.⁵ "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. (Matthew 24:4-7 NKJ)**

As we see what appears to be these very things unfolding before our eyes today, it seems that we who have been in the reserves are now being called to renew our training in order to be an effective army of spiritual warriors in this great cosmic war. The big question then is this: Are we ready to be part of the battle or will we just sit and complain that we really didn’t expect to be in a spiritual war when we joined the Lord’s reserves? The “reserves” are being called up, are we troubled in heart or ready to answer the call? **Pastor Doug**