

War and Peace

The Life (Not the Book)

We must recognize the chief characteristic of the modern era [of all times on a personal level] – a permanent state of what I call violent peace. ~ Admiral James D. Watkins

I don't know whether war is an interlude during peace,
or peace an interlude during war. ~Georges Clemenceau

Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans,
and must be that of every free state. ~Thomas Jefferson

I have never advocated war except as a means of peace. ~Ulysses S. Grant

We are going to have peace even if we have to fight for it. ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

We have war when at least one of the parties to a conflict
wants something more than it wants peace. ~Jeane J. Kirkpatrick

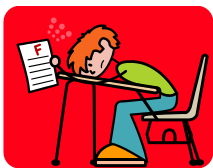
Today we did what we had to do. They counted on America [the Christian?] to be passive.
They counted wrong. ~Ronald Reagan

A heart at peace gives life to the body. Pr 14:30

We may, by forgetfulness, fall out of grace, but we will never be out of danger!

While the devil certainly hated David, Moses and Job more than Saul, Pharaoh and Judas, it is better to be hated by the enemy, with protection from God, than to have the devil and God be against you!

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. Jn 10:10



Overcoming the slacker in all of us (sleeping or being lost in our iPods) is the only way to stay aware and alert to “the threat permanent state of what I call violent peace.”



We overcome being slackers by developing the **discipline** of reading the *Bible* (regularly, thoughtfully, eagerly and with great expectations . . .) to remind us of the war around and before us and jog our memory as to the only way to grace and peace. Few people deliberately walk away from God – many however, simply forget the threat and, then when attacked, are in too much of a panic to remember God and how He says to resist these assaults – depending instead on the best their money, the government, etc. they can muster.

The most important realization? There will be no real, lasting, peace without a continual war and establishing the disciplines to face and defeat the enemies. Those failing to accept this truth (living instead for whatever than get out of today) will be defeated! We can ride the backs of others for a while, or cannibalize our hope for tomorrow in exchange for immediate trinkets, but only at a high cost.

Or you can accept the liberal notion (no, it is not a recent liberal whim) expressed by Benjamin Franklin:

All wars are follies, very expensive and very mischievous ones. In my opinion, there never was a good war or a bad peace. When will mankind be convinced and agree to settle their difficulties by arbitration?

Just as the reality for nations is that when not fighting a battle they must be training for the next one – over/over/over again, individuals must also be doing the same. The next battle is around the corner; now is the time to prepare or what might be a relatively small cost of a battle can become much greater.

A successful life is not one of no battles (trials and temptations) – you would have to die for this to be the case. Money doesn't solve many problems, especially the significant ones. Youth and looks fade. Education becomes outmoded. Friends can disappoint. We cannot have a full and meaningful life in always living on the edge; rather we should learn how to rest (have peace) even in war.

Or to summarize the only real hope in our life-long war:

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you. . .”

“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”

Proverbs 3:34 James 4:6 1 Peter 5:5

Submit yourselves, then, to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:7-8

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2-3

“This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this . . . For the battle is not yours, but God’s. . . You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you . . . Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.’” 2Ch 20:12 – 17