



Thank You for Your Military Service! - By Karen Sue Nyquist

1. **Thank you for your service and sacrifices for the United States of America** and for us, your fellow Americans. You chose to serve to protect us, knowing that you could die or be injured. Some of you have been injured, disabled, or are experiencing PTSD.
2. **Thank you for your commitment and devotion that you chose to show** to your commanders, to your comrades, and to our country. Some of you have seen your colleagues die or get seriously injured, yet you continued doing your sworn duty.
3. **We honor you and your loved ones for the sacrifices you and they are or have made.** You left them, homes, careers, schooling, and dreams for years at a time.
4. **We so appreciate all that you are or have contributed to make America great.** You chose to fought for and protect us from our enemies. You determined to secure our "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."
5. **We realize we enjoy our freedoms and rights because you and generations of military before you, chose to serve and fight to defend:**
 - a) Our freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and to petition the government.
 - b) Our right to bear arms and the right to privacy (no unwarranted government intrusion).
 - c) Our right to due process and the right to be treated equally under the law.

***** **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE, IT COMES WITH A GREAT COST!** *****
7. **We're inspired by your service and will endeavor to live worthy of your sacrifices.**
8. **We will work, vote, and fight to protect the freedoms that you have fought to defend.** If we don't protect them, we will not have them to pass down to our children and our future generations.
9. **What does the Bible say about God and the military?** "But the Lord is with me **like a mighty warrior**; so my persecutors (*enemies*) will stumble and not prevail" (Jeremiah 20:11). "I will sing to the LORD, **For He has triumphed gloriously**" ... "**The Lord is a warrior**; the LORD is His name" (Exodus 15:1, 3 NIV). **Wow! God is a warrior too! So He fully understands you who are in the military and you who are veterans.**
10. **David, who spent many years in the military, wrote much of the book of Psalms. What does he and the Bible say about God and members of the armed forces? -**
 - a) God helps you train, gives you strength, and delivers many of you during battle. "Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me" (Psalm 144:1-2 NIV). "You armed me with strength for battle; You humbled my adversaries before me" (Psalm 18:39).
 - b) God tells you not to be afraid and fought for you during battles. "When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots *and* people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; ... for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you" (Deuteronomy 20:1,4).
 - c) God calls you to rise up to the challenge. "Proclaim this among the nations: 'Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up'" (Joel 3:9).
11. **But some people think that God is against war. -** It's true that God prefers that we try to live in peace. "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). But sometimes war is unavoidable. "To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven... A time of war, And a time of peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:1,8). Even Jesus said, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen," (Matthew 24:6 NIV). God actually does condone some wars, "just wars," under certain circumstances. War should be in self-defense (Exodus 22:2), in defense of the innocent, and/or against an evil aggressor (Genesis 14).
12. **Does God use the military to accomplish His purposes? -** Yes! "You are My battle-ax and weapons of war" (Jeremiah 51:20). God wants you to stop those nations who are aggressive and want war. "Scatter the nations who delight in war" (Ps. 68:30 NIV). God wants you to do your best and finish well. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses" (Neh. (4:14).

13. What does God say about warriors who believe in Him? - God commends you! “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The Lord *is* with you, you mighty man of valor (*brave and courageous in the face of danger*)!’” (Judges 6:12). The Bible even names David’s “mighty warriors” and tells of their amazing acts of bravery (2 Samuel 23:8-10, 18). Apostle Paul names warriors and praises their accomplishments. “And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies” (Hebrews 11:32-34 NIV). **Any women warriors? Yes!** The Bible tells the story of Deborah, a woman who lead the army into battle, and of Jael, a woman who rose to the occasion and single-handedly killed the enemy’s commander (Judges 4:1-24).

14. If God is a warrior, how does He fight for you? - God fights for His people in physical and spiritual wars. Joshua explains that God fought in wars for His people (Joshua 23:3). Jesus is also a mighty warrior! He: **a)** fought for us against Satan and his lying deceptions with God’s truth (John 8:44; 14:6); **b)** fought to pay for our healing by His lashes (2 Peter 2:24); **c)** and fought to pay the death penalty for our sins, salvation, and eternal life by dying on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3). “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Yes, Jesus fought and conquered sin, Satan, and death’s control over us. Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). That’s how much Jesus loves us; He calls us “friends” and died for us! “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38). “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom.10:9 NIV).

15. When Jesus returns, He’ll come as a Commanding General leading His army! - When Apostle John saw the vision of Jesus’ future return from heaven, he exclaimed, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He (*Jesus*) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses ... On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” (Revelation 19:11,14,16). He’s coming to defeat evil (Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8) and to reign on earth as King!

16. Do you want to personally know this Jesus who fought and died for you? - Suggested Prayer: “Jesus, please forgive me and cleanse me from my sins. I believe that You are God’s Son and that You died to pay the penalty for my sins. I repent of them and want to follow You, serve You, and become the person I was meant to be. Now, I confess You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Amen!” Name _____ Date _____

17. God has not forgotten your military service. He loves, honors, and wants to help you. - Do you have emotional, mental, physical pains and injuries, or addictions that you suffer from? God wants to comfort, heal, and deliver you. God is called “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3) and wants, “To comfort all who mourn” (Isaiah 61:2). Jesus said, that “The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me, To ... heal the brokenhearted, ... To set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18). “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). If you need physical, mental, or emotional healing, or freedom from addiction, please come visit us. We preach the Bible and you will feel God’s presence. You can get baptized in water, be filled with His Holy Spirit, and grow in your faith. **Jesus will help you live a free and victorious life!**

NationTakers Ministries

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