

# How Our God Helps Veterans

Examples of how God Almighty has used soldiers to fight battles are found throughout His Word. Service in the military has been a respected tradition throughout the Bible. God cares for those who serve as soldiers. The list of soldiers God recruited includes King David, Gideon, Moses, Joshua, Samson and Joab. There are numerous others, but this list alone proves how God helped, protected and loved His mighty warriors. He wants to help you in your need.

The apostle Paul used the word “soldiers” to describe followers of Jesus Christ. He compares the Christian life to the work that soldiers do in battle. We read about this correlation in Scripture: “Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need” (Phil. 2:25, NLT).

Epaphroditus was a soldier in God’s army. He was also a missionary who served with the apostle Paul. God decided to honor one of His soldiers, so his name was added to His Word. God feels the same way about all active military soldiers and veterans, and He adds their name to the Lamb’s book of life when they accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

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I have always considered it a blessing and honor to meet someone who has served in the United States military. In the New Testament when the word “soldier” is used, it is referring to Christians. God helps our veterans by giving them His Word. He knew our veterans needed help as they faced the challenges of military service, so He placed it in the book of Psalms, where He gives veterans these words. “God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1b, NKJV).

The Lord offers help to veterans through the comfort of the Holy Spirit. He provides direction through his word for every veteran who needs physical and emotional health.

The Lord knew how to talk to military people. Joshua 1:9 (NLT) tells us, "This is my command, be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Those in the military know how to receive a command. These Scriptures are not suggestions. They are commands for us to be blessed.

The Bible talks about wars and rumors of wars. It also tells us that God will be with us and never forsake us. Today we are fighting a spiritual battle. The apostle Paul reminded of this: "Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles" (1 Tim. 1:18).

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I want to thank all those veterans who served their country. In the book of John, these words define our veterans. "My command is this, love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this to down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-13, NIV). You served to protect others.

For the soldiers who have left this earth to be with Jesus, I believe God left a powerful word: "And the Lord of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you, and make you strong, firm, and steadfast" (1 Pet. 5:10).

To our veterans: Remember, God loves you. He cares for you, and He has given everyone a command to love our veterans too.

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