

## "The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name." (Exodus 15:3 NIV)

The Bible, transparently through the pages of the Old and New Testament, reveals the divine characteristics and personality attributes of God. The Lord reveals Himself, and the Bible describes Him as love, comforter, healer, loving Father, councilor, creator, infinite, and a warrior. When most people think of the personality attributes of God, their cognizant mental conception of Him is all of the above, but the thought of a warrior never crosses their mind.

Why would the Holy Spirit in the pages of Exodus want to ascribe his personality to that of a warrior? I am not one hundred per cent sure, but this is what scripture discloses to us. God gets angry and overthrows oppressive governments and men. He sees injustice and hates it; He loathes murders, sin and evil men. Evil men or angels like Satan who had one of the highest positions in heaven, but like some men with money it wasn't enough for him; he wanted more. The Bible says God knows the hearts of, "all men" (John 2:24) and He prophetically sees into the future of what these evil men will do with their free will. Knowing these things, God has made choices and chosen certain warriors like David, Joab, Jephthah, and Joshua to go into combat and wage war against God's enemies, oppressive men, murders and the like.

I believe, however, God's greatest attribute is love. For the Bible says, "God is love." (1 John 4:8) Love is invisible and can be hard to describe. It has faded in and out of our lives in a variety of different shapes and forms. In history, God's love has shown up on the battlefield in the shape and form of a warrior. Just ask anyone who has been oppressed, tortured, raped, or had a family member murdered by wicked men. In modern day, God's love has been manifested in the shape and form of American servicemen and women even though most don't realize it.

His love is so great that these chosen few, these valiant warriors, like Jesus, have fought, sacrificed, and bled, and have felt the great pain, suffering and loneliness of battle only they and Jesus know. True love is what Jesus did, is what warriors do. They take the burden, the sacrifice of pain and suffering off the ones they love. They shoulder it for their country, for all Americans, and they hoist it up, put it on themselves, so their loved ones and others don't have to.

The Lord is a warrior, and a warrior's love can sometimes come with great cost and great pain.

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