

ILL:
The warning was clear, but overlooked. Radar Station of the United States 55th Signal Aircraft Warning Service near Hawaii detected a large mass of incoming aircraft at 136 miles. The airmen on duty, however, were advised by higher-ups at Information Center not to be concerned. “It’s nothing worth worrying about. They’re probably just U.S. supply planes due from the mainland,” the leaders said.

The day was December 7, 1941, and the approaching aircraft turned out to be the vanguard of Japan’s “wild eagles” — 353 carrier-based warplanes that were about to sink and heavily damage 18 U.S. warships in Pearl Harbor and kill 2,403 men.

Somewhere up the chain of command in Hawaii an individual leader made a hasty decision. A speck of uncertainty appeared on a fuzzy radar screen. Instead of sending pilots to check the aircraft out and identify them, he assumed that it was “nothing worth worrying about.” That little “speck” of snow on a screen in truth revealed a group of planes that was poised to wreak havoc on lives and scorch the soul of a nation. The warning was right under their noses, but they chose to ignore it.

A. I WONDER HOW OFTEN CHRIST FOLLOWERS DO THE SAME?

1. We overlook the work of the enemy of our souls — harboring **bitterness**, putting off **prayer**, neglecting **Bible study**, **missing church**, **gossiping**, **holding grudges**. **Lusting** after the world’s enticements, **denying feelings of conviction** and clinging to modern-day idols.
2. **Satan helps us “justify” those sins** and the **enemy’s hold** on our lives increases. How easy it becomes to overlook the **“BLIP” OF CONVICTION** on our radar screens, to discount or deny it.

THE QUESTION IS:
ARE YOU AT PEACE OR ARE YOU AT WAR?

A. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

1. It’s the difference between sleeping and waking. When you know you are in a war, your adrenaline flows.
2. You’re passionate. You’re willing to make sacrifices. You don’t expect or demand constant comfort, security, enjoyment and entertainment.
3. **Each day’s tasks become’s a spy mission**, an assignment from our **Commander**.

Ephesians 5:13-17 (MSG)

B. AND THAT’S WHY OUR SPIRIT MUST BE SUITED UP WITH...THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

1. One of the key components is in Eph 6:17

Ephesians 6:17 (NIV)

ILL: (Take helmet)

KEY THOUGHT: IT IS NOT BRUTE FORCE, BUT IT'S RIGHT THINKING, THAT WINS THE BATTLE!

A. WHEN YOU STAY SUITED UP YOU'RE GROWING IN SALVATION

1. The helmet not only protected the soldier's head in battle; there was insignia or symbols identifying which army he belonged to.
2. In 1 Thess. 5:8 Paul instructed

"Let us be self-controlled, putting on...the hope of salvation as a helmet."

3. This hope protects the Christ Follower against attacks on his mind.

B. TO DEAL WITH SUCH AN ATTACK WE MUST LEARN TO DISTINGUISH THE VOICE OF OUR ENEMY FROM GOD'S VOICE.

ILL: Can you distinguish different voices: Mom, friend, wife,

1. **God will speak** words of love, comfort, conviction, and guidance.
2. **The enemy speaks** words of fear, accusation, and condemnation.

ILL:

"Every military post has guards. They stand quietly at their posts until they hear a rustling in the bushes. Then they immediately ask: 'Who goes there?' and are prepared to evict an intruder.

1. ***We too need to post a guard at the gate of our minds to check the credentials of every thought and every imagination, ready to cast down that which is not true, not righteous, or not of God. If it doesn't belong, out it goes. This is spiritual warfare: being alert to every thought.***

B. I HAVE FOUND OUT IN LIFE ONE OF THE GREATEST WAYS TO GUARD YOURSELF IS TO

1. BE TRUTHFUL WITH YOURSELF

Ephesians 4:25 (MSG)

Conclusion:

A. FINALLY THE SOLDIER IS FULLY ARMED - WHY DOES PAUL GIVE THE SOLDIER A STRONG DIRECTIVE

- "PRAY IN THE SPIRIT"**
- "PRAY...ON ALL OCCASIONS"**
- "PRAY...WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS & REQUESTS"**
- "BE ALERT..."**
- "ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING FOR ALL THE SAINTS"**

Basic Training

1. Because Paul knows that great confidence, assurance and courage.
2. Comes from the spirit of prayer.

Too little, too late

Five hours after the Japanese had successfully launched a surprise air strike on the U.S. bases in Hawaii in 1941, the U.S. Army and Navy commanders there received a message sent through commercial channels. It was from Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall, in Washington, advising the island defense forces they should be on the alert.

The first radar warning came in time; unfortunately, our nation's response did not. The results were devastating.

How does the spiritual radar look in and around your life today? What in the "world" is drawing you away from your devotion to Christ? What temptation is pulling the most at your "flesh?" In what ways is the "devil" trying to trip you up and strike at the "life of Christ" within you?

MOST IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU ACKNOWLEDGING THE WARNING SIGNALS SHOWING UP ON YOUR CONSCIENCE OR IGNORING THEM? ON A SPIRITUAL LEVEL, ARE YOU ALERT OR ASLEEP?