

Devotional
17 August 2011

The core values, Integrity First, Service before Self and Excellence in All We Do; the Air Force proclaims these virtues for our warriors as the ancients did for the Davidic King and his warriors. The warrior who looked and acted their values was seen as the winner in any battle.

Psalm 45

- ² You are the most excellent of men
and your lips have been anointed with grace,
since God has blessed you forever.
- ³ Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one;
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.
- ⁴ In your majesty ride forth victoriously
in the cause of truth, humility and justice;
let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.

In this particular Psalm we have a very visual image of God's warrior and king going out to do battle, hating wickedness and loving righteousness. His mouth carries his integrity; he is serving his God and people. Not only does he *look* the image of excellence he *is* excellent.

As we sit behind our computer screens, as we walk around base, as we communicate with others on how best to accomplish the mission do we look and act the part of God's warrior with integrity; a warrior of God in the cause of truth, humility, and justice? That question may have the sound of being corny, old fashioned, and a bit full of self, but, how others see you is also how you are on the inside. How you look on the outside does portray how you feel on the inside and how you feel about your role in the battle of bringing a loving righteousness.

Now imagine you are God's warrior called upon to give a brief. This is an important brief that other warrior's missions are dependent on. People in the room know you are a person of faith and integrity. Clothed in purpose, rank, mission, and majesty you trip on the step falling against the table and in your frustration you yell, "Damn that table." People in the room gasp and ponder, I thought he was a stand up person of trust and he talked about his faith. Where does that anger come from? Those being briefed may laugh feeling uncomfortable or enjoy seeing you degrade yourself. God from heaven looks down and thinks why does he want me to "damn" a table? I'll damn my enemies but not a table. Then within yourself you think where did that come from? I'm an idiot. With thoughts like that you have dropped your defenses and the real enemy comes in. The real enemy is a spiritual enemy that wants us to see the worst in ourselves and others so that community and team work is fragmented and destroyed; so that we don't reach our potential and achieve a spiritual victory in life now and in the future. And this spiritual enemy always gets us on the little things so that important things are destroyed.

To carry yourself through a mission see yourself as the God you trust and rely on sees you. God does not see all your imperfections- only your potential. God will cloth you in majesty and splendor as you think and become His word in action and deed. In time, the action of looking the part of God's warrior will *make* you God's warrior.

Blessings
Ch Cavens