

## Persistent Trust

In 1945, the U.S. forces moved forward in the central Pacific as combat reached a bloody peak. On Iwo Jima, Marines achieved a costly victory on the island's volcanic terrain. Americans faced even worse on Okinawa, the springboard for an invasion of Japan's home islands. In Okinawa's southern reaches, U.S. soldiers and Marines assaulted a Japanese fortress as kamikaze aircraft rained down on the invasion fleet.

You will recall that the first Marine patrol reached the summit of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, and raised a small American flag, giving hope to their beleaguered comrades. Another detachment returned to the peak to replace the flag with a larger one. Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal captured the moment on film, and it became one of World War II's most iconic images.

On April 1, 1945, more than 60,000 Marines and soldiers of the Tenth Army went ashore at Okinawa. This was the final island battle in anticipation of invading the Japanese mainland. Okinawa proved to be an enormously challenging fight. The final American attack came on June 18. When we secured the island, we counted more than 49,000 casualties. The Japanese Army lost about 90,000 combatants, and the civilian population may have had 150,000 or more victims of the conflict.<sup>1</sup>

America entered WWII after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, HI, on December 7, 1941. The next day, President FDR addressed Congress to request their approval to go to war with Japan and their German and Italian allies. FDR called it the "Day that would live in Infamy."

In his speech, Roosevelt stated, "The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage. ...lives have been lost ...ships have been reported torpedoed between San Francisco and Honolulu." He mentioned the other locations of Japanese invasions, such as the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island, Midway Island, and Hong Kong. He listed the Japanese spirit of conquest, which went back half a century. He continued, "Our enemies are guided ...by an unholy contempt for the human race. We are fighting ...to uphold the doctrine that all men are created equal in the sight of God."

As much as things may seem to change, they do not. There is a constant battle between the holy and the unholy. Ungodly people are trying to reduce the world's population by all means possible. They initiate wars, inflict plagues, destroy food supplies, and more. The love of money and power seems to motivate today's evil. Things don't really change. They just take on new faces.

Americans were caught off-guard by the Japanese attack. Yet, divine Providence seemed to have had a stake in Pearl Harbor and the Allied war effort. On Christmas Day, 1941, Admiral Chester Nimitz, the new Pacific Fleet Commander, toured the naval wreckage in the port. As he looked over the immense destruction, he said the Japanese made three mistakes.

- Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.
- Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Iwo Jima and Okinawa: Death at Japan's Doorstep.", The National WWII Museum, 17 Mar. 2023, [www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/iwo-jima-and-okinawa-death-japans-doorstep](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/iwo-jima-and-okinawa-death-japans-doorstep). Accessed 24 Mar. 2024.

- Mistake number three: every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America.<sup>2</sup>

America has a godly heritage. From Jamestown and Plymouth Rock through the War for Independence and beyond, Americans have served God and turned to Him for His divine protection and aid. While we have suffered hardships, we have prevailed against ungodly assaults through the years.

There is no doubt we are at war today. While not a physical war (yet), we are engaged in a cultural and spiritual battle for the soul of America and Americans. Paul wrote about the conflict and said:

<sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.<sup>3</sup>

We understand literal warfare much easier than the spiritual, but both have the exact origin. The evil one is trying to capture the souls of men and women and will do whatever he can to separate us from God. Sometimes, it comes through bombs and bullets, sometimes through blinding us to the light of God's beloved Son.

We readily see God's hand when we survey biblical and American history. Looking at the godlessness happening around us, it is easy to get discouraged. Our Pilgrim ancestors could have given up after the debacle of the first winter in America when almost half of their number died in the frigid air. Sometimes, our soldiers wanted to quit during the American Revolution, and some did. Thankfully, others faithfully persisted for the eight years of battle and prevailed with liberty. The four harsh years of WWII, with stories of God's providence, gave way to prosperity and peace.

Persistence is a necessity for victory. Paul wrote, "<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."<sup>4</sup> Sometimes, we do good by standing our ground for truth and persevering in the face of disappointment.

Let's learn some lessons from our history and remember to be faithful to the Lord in all our circumstances. In light of eternity, we know we win because Jesus lives. We also know that we reap what we sow here. Faith in God, mixed with courage over fear, yields a harvest of blessings for believers.

Keep The Light of *Persistent Trust* Burning!  
GodNAmerica.com

---

<sup>2</sup> Eiland, Brian. "ADMIRAL NIMITZ : THREE MISTAKES JAPAN MADE AT PEARL HARBOR." , YachtForums Yacht Club, 28 July 2004, [www.yachtforums.com/threads/admiral-nimitz-three-mistakes-japan-made-at-pearl-harbor.16440/](http://www.yachtforums.com/threads/admiral-nimitz-three-mistakes-japan-made-at-pearl-harbor.16440/). Accessed 24 Mar. 2024.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)