

Special Forces: Day Twenty-nine

Intermediate Training: Unit Two

Verifiable Intelligence Information

The Human Factor

One important Special Forces mission has always been intelligence gathering. Intelligence reports from the field have their own specific format and include ratings for the reliability and verifiability of the information. The most trusted sources of information received high reliability ratings. Verifiable information is that which can be verified by multiple sources, including human eyes ‘on the ground’. In many cases, human intelligence, (HUMINT) is the **only** reliable and verifiable information! As an example, consider a requirement to positively identify enemy forces and positions on the ground when both enemy and friendly forces use a lot of the same weapons, wear the same sort of clothing and have no distinctions discernable from aerial surveillance. It is in just such a case that there must be ‘eyes on the ground’ verification.

Just as we are able to receive intelligence information from many different sources, we receive information about God, Christianity and how to live God honoring lives from different sources including the Bible, church sermons, Christian books and media broadcasts, just to name a few! When we receive the same spiritual information or teaching from multiple sources it could even be considered to be ‘**verified**’ information.

Here again, however, the ultimate verifiability is obtained from a human factor, or eyes ‘on the ground’. When we apply what has been received or learned to our lives it becomes real for us as Christians. When others can observe the light of Christ in our lives, when our Christian confession is lived out before them, whatever they may have heard or learned about becomes real for them (**verified intelligence**). In other words, after all of the evangelistic crusades, pulpit sermons, Bible studies and fellowships, what is truly verifiable is what is seen of Christ in Christian lives.

Key Verse:

Jesus, speaking of his own death on the cross said...

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:31 (KJV)

The disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit and sent into their world gave testimony (provided intelligence) concerning what they had seen and heard. As they lifted up the Jesus they knew and loved, and the Light of Life shone through them, men and women were drawn by the Savior to Himself.

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Acts 2:32 (NKJV)

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (NKJV)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1John 1:1-3(NKJV)

Likewise, as we lift up Jesus with our lives, He draws men and women to Himself.

Near the end of my ODF (Out 'Dere Flappin') years the one thing that caused me to finally pick up my Bible again was the 'light of life' I observed in my beloved bride. She had gone to visit relatives in St. Louis, received the Gospel message and become transformed. The transformation was undeniable. I saw a light that I couldn't extinguish and decided to start reading the Bible again, which led to my 'homecoming' to Christ. It was seeing the light of Christ in her that made it real for me.

Some time later, during one of our tours in Massachusetts, our next-door neighbors asked us where we attended church, apparently because they had observed our lives, the openness with our faith and liked what they 'saw and heard'. What was observed in lives made an impression.

Then there is my long time friend Georg (spelling is correct), who as a listener and observer 'saw and heard' one soldier sharing his faith with another and experienced his own 'homecoming'. It is now many years later and Georg has left the service, lives in Pennsylvania with his family and regularly teaches and preaches in his church.

Consider the words of the Apostle John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not. John 1:1-5(ASB)

Mortal humans are not the light, but can be 'light bearers' as the life of Christ is expressed through them and as the Gospel is truly 'seen and heard'. When the light of Christ is seen in the lives of believers, the Gospel of Christ becomes 'A1' information, totally reliable because 'eyes on the ground' have verified it.

So What?

It's one thing to attend church, fellowship groups, and hang out with other Christians. It's easy to be 'light bearers' in the friendly territory of our spiritual 'base camps'. It's quite another to carry the torch high in hostile territory, which is just about everywhere else. We risk not being popular, not fitting in, and often feel alone on the battlefield. The light of Christ in our lives sometimes becomes dim or cannot be 'seen and heard'.

On the other hand, the closer we walk with Christ, the more we 'see and hear' of Christ, the more we become like the disciples who could not help but tell it! The more the light of Christ fills us, the more the light of Christ shines through us! The Gospel truth that maybe has only been heard becomes real for someone God is drawing to Himself!

Listen to the words of Jesus and be encouraged!

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV)