

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

Maybe you have heard this story, but to me it is UNBELIEVABLE.



Age 22 in 1944

Age 52 in 1974

This Soldier Kept Fighting WWII 29 years after It Ended, Because He Didn't Know
By Think Change India August 23, 2017
<https://yourstory.com/2017/08/japanese-soldier-world-war-ii/amp>

When Japan surrendered after Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, World War II came to an end. However, there was a Japanese soldier who did not come out of his hiding to surrender for almost three decades after the war ended. This man, Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda, was an intelligence officer deployed to the Philippines with orders to never surrender or kill himself.

Onoda was 22 years old when he was sent to Lubang Island in the Philippines in December 1944. The orders were very clear — he was to disrupt and sabotage any effort from the enemy and never surrender or kill himself. The orders were so deeply ingrained in his mind that when allied forces arrived at the island in 1945, he and three other soldiers retreated into the hills and decided to continue fighting as guerrillas.

They were the only Japanese soldiers who had not surrendered or died till this time. They survived on coconut milk, bananas, and stolen cattle. All this while, they continued engaging in occasional fights with the local police. According to the [Mashable](#), Hiroo Onoda said, **“Every Japanese soldier was prepared for death, but as an intelligence officer I was ordered to conduct guerrilla warfare and not to die. I had to follow my orders, as I was a soldier.”**

His existence was known to the world in the year 1950 when one of his fellow companions returned to Japan. Another one died in 1950, and his third companion was killed in a shootout with Philippines' soldiers in 1972. Onoda was left alone but that did not break his resolve — he continued to stand firm for another two years.

Onoda agreed to surrender only when his former commanding officer personally went to the island where he was hiding and convinced him that the war had ended. Onoda later justified his stand by saying that he considered the rest of the explanations as an attempt by the pro-US government in Tokyo to sabotage the mission. "He later said that he dismissed search parties sent to him, and leaflets dropped by Japan, as ploys. 'The leaflets they dropped were filled with mistakes so I judged it was a plot by the Americans,' he told ABC (news)."

Isn't that unbelievable? Onoda understood his mission, his identity and would not be dissuaded. He gave himself completely to the task. Onoda knew he was in a battle and he fought until someone he trusted finally told him the truth. While admirable for his loyalty, he fought a battle for 29 years that had ended. Using his story as an analogy for our spiritual battle recalls the points of this week's message.

We fight a long spiritual battle. We must accept the truth that on the cross, Jesus won the victory over our greatest enemy, Satan, and the greatest consequences of that battle, sin. In our case, the victory has been won – VE and VJ days have been declared! (Google those abbreviations if your high school history classes don't come to mind!) Yet, the battles for our souls, minds and hearts continue. We fight on because the consequences of sin and living this side of the final and complete establishment of the kingdom of God is still yet to come.

Like Onoda, when our superior, Jesus Christ, confronts us with our sin, forgives our sin, and accepts us as brothers and sisters, then we know the battle is over. Like Onoda, we ought to be somewhat suspicious of the "leaflets" that drop from the culture that mislead, convey partial truths or even want to undermine or silence biblical truth. The Bible is the real story about the history of humanity. Through Jesus, all the questions about the battle we fight, the outcomes, the enemies' strategies, the "soliders'" mission are clearly noted. Grounded in Jesus, the living "leaflet" of God the Father and conveyed through the "leaflet" of the inerrant written word, we, together, have our orders and can confidently fight for an eternal kingdom.

The scripture focus of the message *Unbelievable: We are All Addicts* centered on Romans 6:1-14.

Read Romans 6:3-5 (know your identity) Onoda defined himself as a soldier of Japan.

How do these two passages help you know your identity?

- Romans 6:3-5
- Galatians 2:20-21 – “My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

How do these two passages help remind you of the danger of sin? (know the mission to defeat sin on the personal level and in the heavenlies)

- Romans 6:6-12
- Romans 7:18-20 – “And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. ²⁰ But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.”

How do these passages teach us about what to do in the sin battle? (know how to fight)

- Romans 6:13-14
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 – “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”
- Psalm 19:12-14 – “How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don’t let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

These are the reflective questions offered by the speaker:

- 1) What is a habit, attitude or behavior that you continue to engage in that displeases God?
- 2) How has it been destructive and held power over your life?
- 3) Have you turned (repented) from this sin?
- 4) Who are the fellow soldiers you have entrusted to help you fight with you?
- 5) What do you need to believe about the power of God?