

# YOUR LIFE IN THE **RED ZONE**

## **GOD – YOUR HEAD COACH**

### **REPLAY**

You walk into the locker room at half time. It's been a rough game. The other team hasn't held back. Your coach gives a talk. It's not all about how great you guys are doing under the circumstances, but it's not all about how terrible you guys are either. He's tough, He always pushes you to your absolute best. But He's fair--He never asks anyone to do more than they are capable of. Just often, you don't know you are capable of it until He makes you do it. While you take a breather, He shows the team the plan for the second half. He knows more about football than you could ever dream of knowing. You have often wondered if He knows so much because He's head coach or if He's head coach because he knows so much.

### **GAME BOOK**

As a Christian, your head coach is God. Your local pastor is your offensive coordinator, but he answers to God. Not only does God have the team's best interest in mind, but He has your best interest in mind. You will do well to remember that the team consists not only of your local church and not only a national church or a single denomination. Instead the team that God coaches is the Christian church as found in every continent on earth. Throughout the Bible, God is shown in different leadership roles.

God is our shepherd (Genesis 48:15, Revelation 7:17). The shepherd provides for the sheep in more ways than food and water. Even as he takes them from pasture to pasture, the shepherd protects the sheep from predators like wolves and bears along the route. The sheep trust the shepherd because he has brought them safely this far. In the same way, we must trust God because of His past guidance.

God is the gardener (Matthew 13:24-30, John 15:1). The gardener not only works to grow the plants, he actively removes weeds. Removal of those weeds can hurt like anything, but it is better for the good plants to have the weed removed completely from the garden. If only the top of the weed is taken, the roots remain and the weed can come back.

God is our commander (Joshua 5:14,15). When the general tells his armies to march, they march. When he says "attack," they attack. When he signals retreat, they retreat. They will press on as long as he commands. You don't just want God on your side; you want to make sure that you are on God's side.

In many ways, the general analogy is closest to our head coach. Generals have

men under them whom they send on missions and with messages. Generals have the responsibility of the whole army to consider. They also know more of the strategy and combat plans of the enemy than the soldiers in the rank and file.

### **TAKE-AWAY**

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If you don't listen to your coach, you will get creamed on the field. God has your best interests in mind. If He tells you not to do something, it isn't because He wants to kill your fun. Instead, it is because what you want to do is harmful to your final goals. Likewise, when God tells you to do something, even if you can't see why, trust He has a good reason. He can see parts of the field that you can't. Consider that His new strategy will catch your opponents off guard and allow you to score. Your coach has a plan. Trust Him.