



FAITH UNDER FIRE: A 'BLACK HAWK DOWN' SOLDIER SPEAKS

with Jeff Struecker

▶ FOCUS VERSES

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.
2 Timothy 1:7

▶ DISCUSSION

1. **Do you have any relatives or close friends who served in the military?**
 - a. To the extent that you're familiar with it, talk about their service—why they joined, what roles they served, how their experiences changed them.
 - b. What are the strongest impressions you got from their experiences?
 - c. How did they affect you?

2. **Jeff talks about the moment that led him to be more open about his faith with his fellow soldiers. (See 1 Peter 3:15.)**
 - a. Have you ever felt reluctant to talk about religion with your friends and colleagues, and if so, why?
 - b. Conversely, have you ever felt irritated or uncomfortable when a friend or co-worker talked about their faith?
 - c. Why do you think you had that reaction?



- 3. Jeff says that his faith has made him a better, more upstanding soldier because he knows he will have to answer to a higher authority than his commanding officer or even the president. (See Romans 14:12.)**
- a. Have you ever been tempted to do something selfish or unhealthy but decided not to because “God was watching”?

 - b. How did that experience affect your behavior going forward?
- 4. When you think about our country, what makes you proud?**
- a. What makes you hopeful?

 - b. What makes you want to get more involved in your community?
- 5. Think of a time when you asked yourself something along the lines of, “Why is God letting this happen to me?” (See John 9:3.)**
- a. What were you going through at the time, and how did it change you?

 - b. Did you learn from the experience, or benefit from it in any other way that you’ve been able to appreciate with the benefit of hindsight?
- 6. Have you ever made a mistake you thought was unforgivable? (See 1 John 1:9.)**
- a. Why did you think it couldn’t be forgiven?

 - b. Did you ever make your peace with it?

