



## TDY

In the military there is a term, TDY, that is used to describe a temporary duty assignment. When you are TDY, you have left the place where you are permanently stationed, and have gone to another location to accomplish a specific mission. While you are TDY, it is often common to get minimal sleep, be extremely focused on the mission, skip meals, etc. This is because you typically have a short amount of time onsite to accomplish your mission. Once you have completed the mission, or run out of time (whichever comes first), you return from TDY. For those who love intensity and focus, TDY is awesome.

The Christian life is like TDY. We are here temporarily, away from our permanent duty station (heaven), to accomplish the mission God has given us. On God's TDY we are short for time and need to avoid distractions. We are only here for a little while compared to eternity. Similar to a military TDY, if we get tangled up in local affairs or distractions, we can lose focus and not accomplish the mission while we are here. And like TDY, our life here on earth is a temporary duty assignment. Once we complete this life, we return to our permanent duty station in heaven. Thinking of this life as a TDY assignment has some advantages for the believer in Jesus.

For example, remembering that we are only here for a short time and that our life on earth is temporary frees us to more fully embrace our life and our situations, whatever they may be. It frees us to not try to build heaven on earth so to speak while we are here, when we realize we are only TDY here. We can simply enjoy the life God has given us, interacting with the people He has put in our lives, do the work He has for us to do, etc. Life becomes much more enjoyable. Less of a competition and more of an adventure. The concept of "dying with the most toys" turns pale gray in comparison to our true home, our true destiny, our eternal abode in heaven.

It can also keep us from getting snared by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life – the loves of this world. When we live like we are on TDY, we are able to stay focused on the mission, which is primarily loving God and loving others. It enables us to let go of tasks and distractions, selfishness, putting accomplishments above relationships, etc. We become more able to love others, better able to dedicate our life to serving others rather than our self. It allows the word of God to grow to maturity in us, rather than being choked out by the worries of the world and the deceitfulness of riches that Jesus warns us of in the parable of the sower.

So how is your life going? Are you on TDY, or are you digging in for a permanent life here on earth. Are you living in a tent or have you built yourself a castle? Are you focused on serving the people around you or are you focused on achieving greatness and acquiring wealth? Are you loving others, or are you using them to suit your purposes? What is your assignment while here on earth? Who has God sent you to love? To share the gospel with? Remember that you are not here forever, your time on earth is like a TDY assignment from God. Complete your mission in the time you have.