



Characteristics of A Good Soldier

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Outline

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I. Introduction

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.



I. Introduction continues...

Mark 14:65

And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.



I. Introduction continues...

And yet He said nothing in His defense!



I. Introduction continues...

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.



I. Introduction continues...

In order to get there, we, too,
must be a good soldier!



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual

The very first step in soldiering is to sign up. You don't come with your own uniform or weapons. They will be supplied.



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

And before you get to boot camp, you have to declare an oath of enlistment. Allow me to submit to you a **Christian Oath of Enlistment.**



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

I, (*NAME*), do solemnly affirm that I will support and defend the Christian Doctrine of Faith and Salvation against all enemies, natural and spiritual; that I will bear true faith and loyalty to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the Lord Jesus Christ and those of His Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers and Leaders who are appointed over me, according to the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit and His guidance to the church, which is the army of the Lord Jesus Christ. So help me God!



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

2 Timothy 2:3-4 declares, “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

Training Development:

1. Mentally
2. Physically
3. Spiritually



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

The purpose of boot camp:

1. Get everyone looking like soldiers.
2. Get everyone thinking and acting like soldiers.
3. Get everyone fighting like soldiers.



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

Romans 15:5-6 declares, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: (6) That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

2 Corinthians 13:11 states,
"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

Philippians 3:15-16 declares,

“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (16) Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.”



II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual continues...

1 Peter 4:1-2, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; (2) That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier

The first thing we must do is:

Endure hardness – suffer trouble and hardships; endure affliction.

1 Peter 5:10, “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

The second thing is:

We Do It As a Good Soldier – excellent in its nature and characteristics and therefore well adapted to its ends (competent, able, such as one ought to be).



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

The third thing is:

We Are Soldiers of Jesus

Christ – a champion of a cause;
in our case, a champion for
Christ.



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

The fourth thing is:

We Warreth – to make a military expedition; be on active service, to fight.



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

The fifth thing is:

We Don't Entangleth Ourselves – to enweave, or be involved in. There must be a separation. You are either military or civilian.



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

The sixth thing is:

We Are Not Driven by the Affairs of this life – business or occupation. Why? We can become so absorbed in doing this and that to the point of total distraction.



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

1 Peter 5:8-9 admonishes us to, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9)

Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

The seventh thing is:

We Please Our Commander-in-Chief – to accommodate one's self to the opinions, desires, and interests of another (that would be Jesus Christ, our Commander-in-Chief).



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

Deuteronomy 24:5 "When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken."



III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier continues...

It's time to walk our post in a military manner:

1. Walk by the same rules; mind the same things.
2. Look like good soldiers, walk like good soldiers, act like good soldiers.
3. And endure hardness like good soldiers.



IV. Six War-Fighting Points

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (27) But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."



IV. Six War-Fighting Points continues...

1. I keep under - to beat black and blue, to smite so as to cause bruises and livid spots; like a boxer one buffets his body, handles it roughly, discipline by hardships.



IV. Six War-Fighting Points continues...

2. Paul was not shadow boxing.
3. Beating his body black and blue to bring it into slavery lest he should become a cast-away.



IV. Six War-Fighting Points continues...

4. He considered his body an enemy that he had to contend with in mortal combat to keep it under control by self-denial, abstinence, and mortification.



IV. Six War-Fighting Points continues...

5. He acted to keep the body as a slave to the soul, not permitting the soul to be the slave to the body.
6. He did this constantly least after he had preached to others he would become a castaway.



IV. Six War-Fighting Points continues...

Ephesians 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."



IV. Six War-Fighting Points continues...

Having done all – This is a military phrase meaning you have fought and won!



V. Conclusion

2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."



V. Conclusion continues...

Fight – To contend with adversaries, fight; metaphorically, to contend, to struggle with difficulties and dangers.

Good – Excellent in its nature and characteristics; and therefore well adapted to its ends.



V. Conclusion continues...

**Endure Hardness
as A Good Soldier!**



Questions and Comments

2 Timothy 2:3-4

