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Characteristics of a Good Soldier

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I. Introduction

2 Timothy 2:3-4

**Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
(4) 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.**

Mark 14:65 records, “**And some began to spit on him, and to cover
his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the
servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.**”

And yet He said nothing in His defense!

Philippians 3:10

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

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II. Comparison: Natural and Spiritual

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

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**.

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!

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Three areas of development: Mentally, Physically, and Spiritually.

The purpose of boot camp is to:

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

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Let's look at the important of having the same mind.

Romans 15:5-6

2 Corinthians 13:11

Philippians 3:15-16

1 Peter 4:1-2

III. Characteristics of a Good Soldier

- 1. We Endure Hardness** – suffer trouble and hardships; endure affliction. **1 Peter 5:10**

- 2. 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).

- 3. We Are A Soldier of Jesus Christ** – a champion of a cause; in our case, a champion for Christ.

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

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

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6. 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.

1 Peter 5:8-9

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

Deuteronomy 24:5

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

- Walk by the same rules; mind the same things
- Look like good soldiers, walk like good soldiers, act like good soldiers
- And endure hardness like good soldiers

IV. Six War-Fighting Points

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

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1. 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.
2. Paul was not shadow boxing.
3. He was beating his body black and blue to bring it into slavery lest he should become a castaway.
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.
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 lest after he had preached to others he would become a castaway.

Ephesians 6:13

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

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V. Conclusion

2 Timothy 4:7-8

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.

Endure Hardness as A Good Soldier!