



# Beneath the Banner of the Cross

2Timothy 2:3-4, 4:6-8

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## 2 Timothy 2:3-4, 4:6-8

- “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier... 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- What goes into the making of a good soldier of Christ?



# He Is A Follower

- Follower implies a relationship; the first step is to enlist in the army.
  - Gal. 3:27 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
  - Rom. 6:16-18 - “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”
  - Phil. 3:20 - “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”



# He Is A Follower

- Follower implies rank; there is always someone greater in authority than you.
  - 1Cor. 6:19 - “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”
  - 1Cor. 11:3 - “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

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# He Is A Follower

- Follower implies rule; do not refuse to follow orders.
  - Matt. 16:24 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”
  - James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

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# He Is Faithful

- He has patience, endures hardship, and does not quit.
- He knows pain is often part of the Christian experience.
  - John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- He is in it for the long haul.
  - Heb. 12:1 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”



# He Is Faithful

- He has priorities - A good soldier has no higher goal in life than pleasing his commander.
- He knows that anything interfering with his performance must be set aside.
  - 1Cor. 10:31 - “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
  - 1Peter 4:11 - “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”



# He Is Faithful

- He has the practice - Guards the things given into his care.
- He refuses to do anything to bring dishonor to his commander.
  - Phil. 1:27 - “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”<sup>1975</sup>
  - Col. 1:10 - “That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”





# He Is Familiar

- With the sound of his commander's voice.
  - John 10:3-5 - “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”



# He Is Familiar

- With the use of his weapons.
  - 2Cor. 10:4 - “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”
  - Eph. 6:10-18

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# He Is Familiar

- With the strategy of his enemy.
  - 2Cor. 11:14 - “For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”
  - 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
  - 2Cor. 2:11 - “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” 1975



# He Is Familiar

- With the strength of his superior officer.
  - Heb. 13:5 - “...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
  - 1John 4:4 - “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

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# He Is Familiar



- With the shadows of his friends.
  - Heb. 11:25 - “Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”
- The good soldier not only cares about his own welfare, but he also looks out for the welfare of fellow soldiers.
  - Gal. 6:1-2 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
- He learns about them by being around them. There is a reason why soldiers train together.



# He Is A Fighter

- He is determined - The good soldier does not retreat in the face of the enemy; he stands his ground and fights the battle until the battle is over.
- Far too many Christian soldiers have deserted the battle front.
  - 1Tim. 1:19-20 - “Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”



# He Is A Fighter

- He is driven - The good soldier realizes that the battle is not scheduled around his timing and plans.
- He knows that another is in charge of the length of the battle, yet he is driven to finish.  
— Heb. 10:35-39

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# He Is A Fighter

- Heb. 10:35-39 - “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”





# He Is A Fighter

- He is dedicated - He keeps his oath. He is determined to live for the Lord regardless of personal cost.
  - 2Cor. 12:15 - “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”

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# He Is A Fighter

- Phil. 2:17 - “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”
- 1Thes. 2:8 - “So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”
- 2Tim. 2:10 - “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”



# He Is A Finisher

- He has his reward.
  - 2Tim. 4:8 - “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
  - James 1:12 - “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”



# He Is A Finisher

- 1Peter 5:4 - “When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”
- Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
- What will be waiting for you when you meet Jesus?