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Everyday Christian: Hard Fighting Soldier / A Soldier; Fight of Faith / 2 Timothy 2:1-7
A hard fighting soldier uses the proper tools and goes through many tests for the Lord.



2 Timothy 2:1-7 ESV

¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

I. THE SOLDIER'S TOOLS

A. Spiritual tools

2 Corinthians 10:4 ESV

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

B. Special tools

Ephesians 6:13–17 ESV

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

C. Successful tool

Ephesians 6:18 ESV

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

II. THE SOLDIER'S TESTING

A. Physical testing

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 ESV

⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

B. Mental testing

Philippians 4:7 ESV

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C. Spiritually tested

Ephesians 6:13 ESV

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

God's Plan of Salvation

HEAR

Romans 10:14, 17; Luke 6:47-49

Hearing is essential to initial salvation. One cannot be saved without faith in Jesus (John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6) and one can't gain faith without hearing the gospel. Paul explained, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17, cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8). Hearing is also necessary to remain saved as a Christian (Galatians 5:2; Hebrews 2:30-22; Revelation 2:7). Paul wrote, "holding forth the word of life, that may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain" (1 Timothy 2:8).

We will not learn what God wants us to do in any way other than simply opening up the holy Bible and hearing to understand. It says, "Inasmuch as we are, a Christian will help us in understanding and obeying the Bible (Acts 8:30-31; Mark 16:15), but it is God's Word that saves us.

Responsibility shifts from preacher to listener during a sermon. Once we hear it, we become responsible for doing it. James wrote, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

BELIEVE

Hebrews 11:6; Mark 16:16; James 2:24

Faith involves placing one's basic facts about the eternal God and Jesus of Nazareth, a man who lived about two thousand years ago. We must be convicted of three basic facts:

God—To believe in the Son of God, one must first believe in God (Hebrews 11:6). We must believe in (1) God's existence, and in (2) God's benevolent character—He loves us and rewards those that seek Him.

Jesus—One needs to know enough of the details of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, miracles, character, death, resurrection to be fully convinced of who He was. This knowledge is gained only by studying the Bible, especially Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (Romans 10:17).

The Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)—Just before His return to heaven, the Master said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned" (Mark 16:7-8). All one needs to know is found in one book, the Bible.

REPENT

Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20

Repentance is (1) a change of mind (2) produced by godly sorrow (3) resulting in self-reproach (4) and (5) a change of life. It is prompted by thoughts and behavior by decisions (thoughts) and actions (behavior). The process of repenting begins in the heart. An unrepentant man must forsake his thoughts (Mark 5:17). The Bible sometimes calls this process dying to self (cf. Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:3-5).

Repentance eliminates the reformation of life. We cannot turn back the clock and retire a single year. Repent, as much as we might want to undo one sin, however, we have some control over our today and tomorrow. It is in by deciding to give up earthly sins (cf. Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 19:6-9; cf. Ezekiel 18:2-19; Matthew 18:3-4 and please read the scriptures 2:8), but it is required (Luke 13:3; Romans 6:10).

Repentance eliminates God's likeness in us (Genesis 1:26-27) and desires for our positive influence on others (Mark 16:7; 5:13). Christ's blood can remove our iniquity and restore us in His image (Colossians 1:10). Remember, "We shut ourselves out, but we shall not prosper; but when we confess our sins and forsake them, then shall we have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

CONFESS

Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:12; Matthew 10:32-33

Romans 10:9 says the one must confess "the Lord Jesus" (cf. John 20:31). By doing so, one has affirmed that he believes that Jesus is the living (Hebrew 1:3) and (meaning of Jesus) and Master (meaning of Lord).

Of course, Jesus has all actually over us when we admit it (not) (Matthew 23:16), but if we confess to Him now, He blesses us with salvation. Today, "every tongue should confess" and "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10-11; cf. Romans 10:10). If we have not with gladness confessed Him here, then we shall with sadness confess Him there. If we do not confess Him into salvation, we will later confess Him to condemnation (2 Timothy 2:12; cf. Matthew 25:10-13).

The true confession God is looking for is the one the Egyptian treasure he made years ago: "I believe that Jesus, Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). God wants to hear it from every mouth He ever made, including yours and mine (cf. Exodus 4:1).

BE BAPTIZED

(Immersed in water as a believer)
Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21

According to the Scriptures, baptism:

- Saves (Mark 16:16)
- Puts one into the kingdom (Acts 22:16)
- Grants remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Brings the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
- Results in rejoicing (Acts 2:38-39; 16:33-34)
- Fulfills a command (Acts 10:48)
- Washes away sins (Acts 2:26)
- Puts one into Christ's death, thus into His blood (Romans 6:3-4; Revelation 1:5)
- Relates one with Christ to walk in a new life (Colossians 2:12)
- Puts one into Christ, "put Christ on" (Galatians 3:27)
- Saves (1 Peter 3:21)

If you have never been baptized in compliance with the New Testament, ask yourself, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36). Do not let any circumstances, any person, or any emotion stand between you and pleasing God. "Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

REMAIN FAITHFUL

Galatians 5:4; 1 Corinthians 10:12

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whosoever will take his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

We must never deny Christ. The 9th commandment that we must not forget is, "Thou shalt not deny thy Lord" (1 Timothy 2:12). After the death of Jesus, the disciples who followed Him were denied entry (Mark 14:50), which (1 Timothy 4:16), and (1 Timothy 4:16).

We must surrender to Jesus' will (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34). To deny self is to refuse to fulfill our own personal agenda, our own interests, to even consider our own. We have shed of others. This is first tested by our willingness to obey the gospel of Christ and follow God's plan of salvation.