

# THE ARMY OF GOD

## Good Soldier

- I. 2 Timothy 2:3-In the army of God there is different kinds of soldiers – What kind of soldier do you want to be?
  - A. Whether you realize it or not you are a soldier in the army of God – (SAY: *I am a soldier in the army of God*)
    1. Soldier-Army, camp, band of soldiers; Champion (one who fights) for the cause of Christ
      - a. *PH*-Put up with your share of hardship as a loyal soldier in Christ's army
      - b. *Ex15:3-KJ*-The Lord is a man of war; *1Tim1:18-KJ*-That you might war a good warfare
    2. A revelation of the family of God centers on the work of God's grace, being loved by God and the things God wants to do for us; A revelation of the army of God centers on the fight of faith, being used of God and the things God wants to do through us
  - B. What kind of things do you find in an army?
    1. A leader-*Hb2:10*-Captain (Leader, chief) of our salvation
    2. A cause-*Mk16:15*-Go and preach; *Mt28:20*-Go and teach; *Ph2:15-16*-Shine as lights holding forth the word of life
      - a. The teaching and preaching is key not to just getting people saved but to train you in shininess and saltiness
    3. An enemy-*1Pt5:8*-Your adversary (enemy) the devil as a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour
    4. Conflict-*1Tim1:18*-War a good warfare; *1Tim6:12*-Fight the good fight
    5. Rank-*Hb13:17*-Obey them that have the rule (command, authority, chief, leader) over you and submit yourself
    6. Orders-*1Th4:2*-You know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus
    7. A mission/Marching orders-*2Cor5:20*-We are ambassadors for Christ; *Hb12:1*-Race set before you (Contention, conflict, fight)
    8. Weapons-*Eph6:13*-Armor of God; *2Co10:4*-The weapons of our warfare
    9. Training-*Eph4:12*-Train the saints for the work of the ministry
  - C. All soldiers in the army of God are not the same – From soldier to soldier the quality varies
    1. Good-Excellent, choice (high quality), eminent (outstanding), useful-*AC*-A good (*first class*) soldier; *GNT*-Loyal soldier
    2. Does this describe all believers?-*2Tim2:3*-MSG-Throw yourself into this work for Christ. Pass on what you heard from me to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others. When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did. A soldier on duty doesn't get caught up in making deals at the marketplace. He concentrates on carrying out orders.
      - a. *2*-Commit to faithful men-Some are faithful, some are reliable, some are competent and some are not
      - b. *1Cor3:3*-Some are carnal (governed by the flesh), babies, immature
    3. If you're carnal, unfaithful, incompetent God loves you and you're saved, but what kind of soldier are you?
- II. *2Tim2:19*-Some soldiers are more useful to God than others; Not better/worse, more/less, but more useful
  - A. *19*-A good soldier departs from iniquity
    1. Iniquity-Wrongfulness in character/life/act, unrighteousness in heart or life; *AMP*-Withdraw from wrong doing; *ERV*-Stop doing wrong; *TLB*-A person who calls himself a Christian should stop doing wrong; *VO*-Stop doing what they know to be wrong
  - B. *20*-All vessels are not the same, some are more valuable than others (Honor-Value, esteem; Dishonor-Of less esteem)
    1. God loves every vessel, but there are some that are more useful to Him and in turn they are more valuable to Him
      - a. There are some that God values, esteems and regards and others that He loves, but does not value, esteem and regard as much because he can't pour through them like He can pour through this one
    2. There are common or ordinary vessels and then there's another kind of vessel uncommon, extraordinary
      - a. *ER*-Some are used for special purposes, others for ordinary jobs; *PH*-Some used for the highest purposes some for the lowest
  - C. *21*-Everyone can be a vessel of honor (good soldier), but everyone won't b/c there's a purging that needs to happen
    1. *19*-If you purge (clean thoroughly, separate from impure) yourself from these (vain idle talk, ungodliness, iniquity)
    2. We are vessels, carriers, containers (*1Cor6:19*-Temple of Holy Ghost; *2Cor4:7*-Earthen vessels; *1Pt3:7*-Weaker vessel)

3. Why purging? If you put anything in a vessel that isn't properly cleaned it effects the quality of the contents you put in it: When those contents are distributed the pureness/power of them is weakened; We are vessels and the remnants of worldliness in us contaminates the quality of what God pours through us
4. Your cleanliness determines your usefulness
5. Don't use God's graciousness as excuse for your sloppiness (I.E. God can use anybody He wants no matter what their faults, and they use that as an excuse to justify being sloppy)

D. 21-Everyone CAN BE a vessel of honor, but everyone WON'T BE b/c there's a separating that needs to take place

1. 1Co10:23-Separate from what doesn't edify (growth in wisdom, holiness, , virtue, blessedness), isn't expedient (help)
  - a. Many are asking can I get away with doing that, when they should be asking does it edify?
  - b. 2Tim2:4-There some things a soldier has no time for (Wars-Military Duty)
  - c. 2Tim2:22-Flee these immature desires – That's much different than giving into them
2. Gal6:14-Separate from worldliness (Don't look like, think like, act like the world or do stuff the world does)
  - a. The enemy tries to insert a little leaven telling you it's no big deal-Gal5:9 – Beware of the little leaven
  - b. The more like the world you are, the less useful you are: The more set apart the more useful you are to Him

E. 21-To be used you have to be fit and ready (Meet-Fit for use, useful, easy to use; Prepared-Ready, everything ready)

1. CEV-The ones who stop doing evil and make themselves pure will become special. Their lives will be holy and pleasing to their Master, and they will be able to do all kinds of good deeds; ERV-The Lord wants to use you for special purposes, so make yourself clean from all evil. Then you will be holy, and the Master can use you. You will be ready for any good work
2. You don't have to do a thing in the world to be loved by God; It's an entirely different story in being used by God

F. In the Body of Christ there's 2 of things going on; 1) Ones who are saved and going to heaven 2) Ones who are actually being used of the Lord to do things for him – Ones who have the t-shirt and hat and ones who are actually in the game

III. There are special forces in the army of God – David was type of Jesus and he had mighty men

A. David's mighty men (Champion, excel, emphasizing strength or ability to fight; ERV-Special soldiers; ISV-Special forces)

1. 8-Adino-Slew 800 men with his spear at one time-CJB-He came against 800 men, whom he killed in a single encounter
2. 9-Eleazar-The men of Israel were away and he, David and 2 others defeated an entire army; CEV-He had David dared the Philistines to fight them; MSG-When the Philistines drew up for battle Israel retreated. But Eleazar stood his ground and killed the Philistines right and left until he was exhausted but never let go of His sword. A big win for God that day. The army then rejoined Eleazar, but all there was left to do was clean up.
3. 11-Shammah-When others retreated he stood his ground; TLB-Once during a Philistine attack, when all his men deserted him and fled, he stood alone at the center of the field of lentils and beat back the Philistines; and God gave him a great victory
4. 14-17-3 of David's mighty men came to visit David in a cave when the Philistines had taken over Bethlehem; David said something of, "Some water from that well in Bethlehem would be nice." There was so much honor for the one in authority over them they risked their lives in attempt to honor him and broke through the Philistines and got water
5. 18-Abishai slew 300 at once with his spear; TLB-Took on 300 of the enemy single-handed and killed them all
6. 20-Benaiah slew 2 of the best soldiers in Moab; Once it was snowing he went down into a pit where a lion was and killed him; An Egyptian soldier had a spear, he only a staff, he took it from the Egyptian and slew him with it

B. Herb Brooks-This cannot be a team of common men because common men go nowhere; You have to be uncommon