

# THE ARMY OF GOD

## Train Yourself

I. 1 Timothy 4:6-8-There's no such thing as being a good soldier apart from training – You have to train you way into it

### A. Being a good soldier is something that you train yourself unto

1. *6-Good minister of Jesus Christ-Are all ministers the same? Good doctrine-Is all teaching the same?*
2. *Godliness is being a good soldier (Godliness-Devout-Devote or give up wholly, direct the attention wholly; Dutiful-Obediently, submissively, respectfully with regard to duty; Pious-Respect and honor for God in heart and practice*
3. You're not a good soldier just b/c you want to be or b/c you're saved-You have to train/practice your way into it
  - a. (Exercise-Train, practice, exercise vigorously) – AC-*Train yourself toward godliness*; HCSB-*Train yourself in godliness*; TP-*Be engaged in the training of truth that brings righteousness*; GNT-*Keep yourself in training for a godly life*; TL-*Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit*; NLV-*Keep yourself growing in God-like living*

### B. There is very real training in spiritual things and there's very real development-GNT-Spiritual exercise; PH-Spiritual fitness

1. You can be out of shape spiritually, unfit spiritually and if you are you're not fit for God's use-2Tim2:19
2. Heb5:12-You should be teachers; 1Cor3:3-You are yet carnal – You should be beyond where you are

### C. Spiritual training is profitable unto all things and has affect beyond this life

1. AC-*Spiritual training is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come*; TL-*Spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic (increase strength) for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, practice being a better Christian b/c that will help you not only now, but in the next life too*
2. What value should we attach to spiritual training? You could argue after you get saved there's nothing more important – Is this the priority most believers put on their training?

### D. 1Ch12:8-The way you become men of might, fit for battle is that you train

II. Ep4:12-After salvation there is a very real perfecting that must begin b/c there's assignment that must be fulfilled

### A. Do saints/believers really need to be perfected? AC-Full equipping; ERV-To prepare; EHV-Training

1. Perfecting-Complete furnishing, fit out, strengthen, make what he ought to be; Instructed fully, make fully skillful
2. Is every believer being perfected? Does this happen automatically?
3. There is ministry in the body beyond just reaching the lost, there's equipping and mobilizing an army

### B. This being perfected is an on going process that never ends - You're equipping, preparing, training is constant

1. PerfectING-That's the present progressive tense, it is going on now or on going – You're perfecting is ongoing
2. You don't become an elite soldier over night, but rather it's a process of perfecting

### C. The perfecting is for work, for ministry, for service

1. The depth of your development determines the magnitude of your ministry
2. Some want to train like chumps and win like champs; Some don't want to train just be used to do great things
3. Good soldiers are meticulous, obsessive, serious about their training

III. To become a good soldier there are two key things you need 1) Hunger 2) Honesty

### A. You got to be hungry (Mt5:6-You better get hungry, you better get thirsty)

1. Lk14:25-Being perfected/disciple requires that you pay a price; If you aren't hungry enough you won't pay the price
  - a. Many want to be something great, but don't want to train greatly; They want to invest little and increase much
  - b. How serious are you about the things of God? How committed are you? How much do God/His things mean to You? How serious are you about your calling, about fulfilling God's plan for your life, about your training?
2. There's some stuff you have to be too hungry to get entangled with

- a. *2Tim2:3-AM-Gets entangled in the [ordinary business] affairs of civilian life; he avoids them; ER-Does not spend any time on activities that are not part of his duty; NCV-No one serving in the army wastes time with everyday matters; TP-For every soldier on active duty must divorce himself from the distractions of this world*
- b. *Ga6:14-TL-My interest in the the attractive things of the world was killed long ago, the worlds interest in me is also long dead*
- c. *1 Corinthians 10:23-All things are lawful, but not all are expedient, all things are lawful but not all things edify*

**B. You have to be honest**

- 1. If you want to be a good soldier you MUST stop pretending to be somewhere or something you are not
  - a. There's some who are pretending to be good soldiers and then there's the real thing (*2Tim2:3-ICB-True soldier*)
  - b. Wanting to be this kind of soldier or just pretending you are this kind of soldier doesn't make you one?
- 2. *Heb10:22-Draw near to God with a true heart* (True-That which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name; Real, true, genuine; Opposite of fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, pretend)
  - a. *Lk8:15-Humble yourself and be honest with God and with yourself – Stop playing*
- 3. 1Corinthians11-Judge yourself-Do we really need to do this? How often are you judging yourself, assessing where you are, examining yourself and being honest about the reality of the answer?
  - a. One of the main keys of spiritual growth is to learn to be brutally honest with yourself, w/o condemning yourself
  - b. Stop pretending you're more committed than you are