

Called To Be Warriors

by Van Knolton

In June 2015, the United States Army celebrated 240 years of service to the nation. In June 1775, the Army formed as an all-volunteer force to fight the wars of the nation and secure peace. From 1940-1973 the nation instituted the selective service (the draft), then reverted to an all-volunteer force. The Constitution of the United States says that the government is responsible to “provide for the common defense” of its citizens. What does this tell us, as Christians and our calling?

Hebrews 1:8 (NKJV) states *“But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom”* and Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV) says, *“Unto us a son is given and the government will be upon his shoulders.”* We know that Christ is that Son. As we learn in Matthew 16:28, John 18:37 (NKJV), Christ is the king in His kingdom and as we learn in Philippians 3:20 (NKJV), as Christians, our citizenship is in the kingdom of Christ.

As the king of our kingdom, Christ has both the authority and the responsibility to call soldiers to the defense of the kingdom. We know that in Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) the foe of our king and our kingdom is Satan as it says *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”* Because Satan transgressed God’s will, he declared war against God and now our king calls us to battle.

In 1 Timothy 1:18 (NKJV) we see Paul charging Timothy to *“Wage the good warfare.”* What warfare was Timothy charged to wage? Why is a young preacher (Timothy), charged with waging warfare? To whom is Timothy responsible for waging this warfare?

Furthermore, in 2 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV) Paul tells Timothy *“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”* Do Christians today have a warfare we are to wage? Let us consider then that as Christians these verses tell us that we are citizens in the kingdom and have been called to be soldiers in the army of Jesus Christ. Since Christ is the king of our kingdom, Christians are soldiers in His army, and we are to wage warfare faithfully against the adversary the devil. As stated in 1 Peter 5:8-10, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.”*

Each soldier, upon entry to the armed forces of the United States, learns the code of conduct. Article I of The United States Armed Forces code of conduct states: “I am an American, fighting in the forces, which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.” The Army discovered that **volunteers** serve much better, and Christians are volunteers. We are not compelled to serve, but volunteer to serve. In baptism, Christians are baptized into the kingdom of Christ making us citizens of the kingdom and subject to the call of our King for waging warfare.

Napoleon Bonaparte is quoted as saying “The first virtue in a soldier is endurance of fatigue; courage is only the second virtue.” Having been called to serve we must have endurance unto the end of the battle. The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines endurance as: “1) the ability to do something difficult for a long time; 2) the ability to deal with pain or suffering that continues for a long time; and 3) the quality of continuing for a long time.” We must be prepared to wage the good warfare; we must have the endurance to continue until the battle is won.

Second, we must be strong, have great courage, and trust in the power of our King. As stated in Ephesians 6:10-11 (NKJV) *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* This verse gives us the knowledge that the Lord not only stands with us during the battle but He leads us in great power.

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