

## Are You A Soldier Of The Cross?

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by Wayne Goff

***“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier” ~ 2 Timothy 2:4.***

### Soldier Of Christ

Every person who has rendered obedience to the Gospel of Christ has enlisted in the army of Jesus and is considered a “soldier” fighting the great moral battles of the universe. The battle will rage on until the end of time. A good soldier never lays down his armor or surrenders to the enemy, Satan.

Paul admonished the preacher, Timothy, to not get entangled with the affairs of this life. A soldier must sacrifice a great deal in order to please his Master General. Getting wrapped up in heart and mind with this world is worthy of a *spiritual* court martial!

Two Christians are identified as “soldier.” Epaphroditus was described by Paul as “my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier” (Phil. 2:25). Archippus is also mentioned as “our fellow soldier” (Philemon 2). But every disciple of the Lord is a soldier! Every one of us is fighting not just for our lives, but for our eternal souls! **Dear friend, do you have the warrior mentality?** Many do not.

### The Whole Armor Of God

For those who might think that the “soldier concept” of the Christian is outdated, let me admonish you again that Christ considers all of his faithful followers to be soldiers. If He does not, then why did He inspire Paul to write a lengthy description of “the whole armor of God?” I think it is appropriate to publish the entire description found in Ephesians 6 to impress you with the weaponry of the spiritual soldier. Take the time to read it, meditate upon it, and then prepare for battle!

*“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. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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.*

*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (verses 10-18).*

Man! It sure sounds like warfare to me! He tells all of us – “brethren” – to put on the whole armor of God. The spiritual armor is truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit. The disposition of a good soldier is active concern for his fellow soldiers (prayer), and unending vigilance and observation.

Some brethren are so naive that they do not know that a great battle is going on for their very souls! Some brethren have already capitulated to the enemy because of their distaste for warfare. But the faithful saint always has the warrior mentality and will fight to the end in order to obtain eternal life, for himself and his compatriots. The great apostle Paul, at the end of his life, said confidently: **“I have fought the good fight” (2 Tim. 4:7).** Be sure to pick up your armor and your sword, and go to battle!

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