

Faith Factor

Why Not the Best? – The Soldier

February 18, 2024



2 Peter 1:5-8 (CEV) – “Do your best to improve your faith. You can do this by adding goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love. If you keep growing in this way, it will show that what you know about our Lord Jesus Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful.”

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (TLB) “Timothy, my son, be strong with the strength Christ Jesus gives you. For you must teach others those things you and many others have heard me speak about. Teach these great truths to trustworthy men who will, in turn, pass them on to others. Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do; and as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army. Follow the Lord's rules for doing his work, just as an athlete either follows the rules or is disqualified and wins no prize. Work hard like a farmer who gets paid well if he raises a large crop. Think over these three illustrations, and may the Lord help you to understand how they apply to you.”

The Good Soldier

1. Knows what they will _____.

John 15:13 (NKJV) – “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”

Acts 20:24 (NLT) – “My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

2. Sacrifices their _____.

2 Timothy 2:3 (TLB) – “Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do;”

Ephesians 5:2 (NLT) – “Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us.”

3. Is part of a _____.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) – “He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

NOTES:

The Power of the Unit

- Strength in Diversity: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them." (1 Corinthians 12:4).
- Mutual Support and Accountability: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).
- Unified Purpose Over Individual Ambition: "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." (Philippians 2:2).
- Discipline and Training Together: "Train yourself to be godly." (1 Timothy 4:7).
- Facing Adversity Together: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- Celebrating Victories Together: "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15).
- Leadership and Discipleship: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- Sacrifice for the Greater Good: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13).

4. Knows their _____.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT) – “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”

Romans 15:13 (NLT) – “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 15:57 (GNT) – “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Luke 10:19 (CEV) – “I have given you the power to trample on snakes and scorpions and to defeat the power of your enemy Satan. Nothing can harm you.”

1 John 5:4 (NLT) – “For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.”

5. Eliminates _____.

2 Timothy 2:4 (TLB) – “and as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army.”

Matthew 6:33 (NCV) – “Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.”

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