

“I Am a Soldier!”

Romans 8.35-37; Ephesian 6.10-13; 2 Timothy 2.3-4

Years ago we sang hymns about spiritual battles like *Onward, Christian Soldiers*. Children sang “I’m in the Lord’s army!” Today, believers have forgotten that conflict, and many have fallen away as a result. But in this life, the battle rages. And part of our ‘identity’ is being soldiers!

- The Armor of a Soldier

Basic gear: Truth, righteousness, the gospel, and salvation

The soldier’s offensive weapon: The Word of God

The soldier’s secret weapon: Prayer

- The Suffering of a Soldier (2 Tim. 3.2)

Because of where we are (John 16.33)

Because of Who we represent (John 15.18-21)

Because of what we desire (2 Tim. 3.12)

- The Heart of a Soldier (2 Tim. 3.3)

Keeping untangled from the world.

Pleasing the Lord who ‘enlisted’ us.

1. Scripture characterizes our experience as spiritually alive beings in the world in many different ways. We walk with the Lord and with the Spirit. We have intimate fellowship. We shine as lights in the darkness. We are disciples of Jesus Christ. We are secure as children in the forever family of God. We start off as spiritual babies, and we need to grow up. We are part of the body of Christ, each with our proper gift and purpose. Which of these characterizations do you resonate with? Why?
2. Unless you have experienced active combat in a time of war, you will have to imagine here. Scripture characterizes the Christian life as warfare – against an enemy that is out to destroy you. How does that make you feel? Why is it hard for us to recognize the spiritual battle raging all around us every day?
3. Many hymns speak of the Christian as a soldier in battle. Reflect on these lyrics:

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high his royal banner, It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory His army shall he lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see his banner go!

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On, then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise!

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided; all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

