Chapter TWO -

‘I believe and will live by the truths of the word of God expressed in The Salvation Army’s eleven Articles of Faith.’

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to not only follow Jesus in spirit but to continue his work on Earth as it is in Heaven.

How we do this, the way we live our lives, flows from what we believe, our personal relationship with Jesus and our experience of living in the world.

In Chapter two of Called to be a Soldier, we read some more about the eleven beliefs held and taught by The Salvation Army and how these spiritual truths form a pattern of living for soldiers, as laid out in the Soldier’s Covenant. Rooted in the revelation of the Bible, these eleven doctrines affirm the
understanding of God as Trinity, humanity as separated from God by sin, and salvation as a possibility for all who choose to believe.

Everyone who comes into relationship with God through faith in Christ belongs to the new community God is building - the church.

The church is commissioned to be the presence of Christ on Earth, to tell his story by the way we live and the words we speak.

As the Early Church expanded in size, the believers recognised the importance of helping each other grow in faith. They were not only individuals who believed, they were a community who supported and challenged one another in working out what it means to be a follower of Christ.

We must do the same.

We are a family. And despite the work it takes and the learning we will do along the way, together we’re figuring out how to put our belief into action, how to be with Jesus, become more like him and do what he did.

Find The Salvation Army International Spiritual Life Development on Instagram and Facebook for more @SalvArmySpiritualLife
'We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.'

The Bible is inspired by God, and because of this unique inspiration it is the trustworthy source of Christian faith and practice.

The Bible is the ultimate love story, the story of God's relentless pursuit of relationship with his people.

The ultimate source of wisdom, encouragement and understanding for a flourishing life with God.

Like any other spiritual discipline, reading the Bible is not an end in itself.

The goal is not to read the Bible 365 days a year - that is a rich practice and something we can all aim for, but it's not the goal.

The goal is to know more of who God is.
How has the Bible shown you truth, encouraged you, corrected your thinking or trained you to live God’s way?

This week, we are reading chapter two of Called to be a Soldier.

Find out more about Called to be a Soldier at https://salvarmyspirituallife.carrd.co/ or follow the link in our bio

Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life
Are you reading Called to be a Soldier?

This week, we are venturing into Chapter Two, taking a look at the shared beliefs of The Salvation Army and exploring the importance of faith that is 'lived'.

As you read, meditate on what you are reading and ask God to draw your attention to the things you need to really hear.

Bring questions to your study and an openness to the God who calls us into his service and mission.

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'We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.'

There is one God. He is the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things.

All things.

Our response to God's extraordinary love and power is to give him our worship and praise. So often we hold off praising God until he provides the things or the results that we want.

God deserves better than that.

And we can do better.

In Romans 12, Paul reminds us that worship is a way of life:
'Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvellous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.' - Romans 12:1 (TPT)

💬 How do you seek to express your worship of God?

💬 Where does God come in your list of priorities?

💬 Is your response to praise God for who he is, even before he meets your needs and answers your prayers?
How are you using Called to be a Soldier?

In Pakistan, as well as a written translation, Called to be a Soldier has been recorded as an audiobook in the national language of Urdu.

Major Arif Masih, Secretary for Spiritual Life Development in the Pakistan Territory, is deeply invested in ensuring people have a correct sense and understanding of spirituality and live authentically as followers of Jesus:

'Religion is a set of doctrines. Spirituality is becoming more like Christ. When religion or religious teachings are expressed in our daily life actions then we can be called spiritual. If not, we are neither religious nor spiritual.'

In Pakistan, Called to be a Soldier is reaching more people in audio format and reaching those who, for whatever reason, are unable to access the written text.

Spoken word often brings new life to familiar words.
Have you considered sharing the book verbally?

Perhaps reading together in small groups, recording small sections or sharing voice notes with others.

🎧 The Urdu audiobook recording of Called to be a Soldier can be found online at salvationarmypakistan.org (or via the link in our bio)
'We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.'

One God. Three distinct persons.

Father. God as Father is significant in the teaching of Jesus. Jesus called us to pray to God as 'Our Father'. This is intimate and so is our relationship with him.

Jesus. The Son of God. God with us. God in human form. The one who came to live and die so that all who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life.

The Holy Spirit. The presence of God in us. He inspires us to understand, to believe, to obey God's word. He directs our attention to Jesus, while uniting us in our relationship with God and empowering us to serve.

One God. Three distinct persons.

We are called into this community of love, service and grace.
Paul ends his second letter to the church in Corinth with this blessing, a blessing we pray over you today:

'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' - 2 Corinthians 13:14
'We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that he is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.'

Jesus shows us what it means to be fully human. He also shows us what it means to fully reflect God's image into the world.

He was tired, angry, hungry, thirsty and tempted in every way. Yet he did not sin.

In the ultimate act of love, Jesus did what no human could do. He gave his life to save ours.

Truly and properly God. Truly and properly man.

We are invited to spend time with Jesus, to learn his way of being, to observe his lifestyle, to absorb the details of his everyday life - and to follow his example.

A life committed to following Jesus will require surrender and it will require sacrifice.

But it is guaranteed to be the greatest adventure.
'We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocency, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness, and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.'

God's grand vision was to walk with his children, to be in their presence, to be with us.

In the garden of Eden, God gives Adam and Eve a choice - the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

We know they choose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In this one act of free will they rejected God's vision, they chose to be their own gods. God honours their choice and escorts them out of the garden.

This is an act of grace on God's part. This is not the vision of life God had in mind.

The grand vision of God has been wrecked by the choice of one man.

Every one of us is born with the sin nature because of the choice of one man.

But here's the good news - God wants us back.

The rest of the story of the Bible unfold his plan - his relentless pursuit of you and me.