‘HAVING ACCEPTED JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVIOUR AND LORD, AND DESIRING TO FULFIL MY MEMBERSHIP OF HIS CHURCH ON EARTH AS A SOLDIER OF THE SALVATION ARMY, I NOW BY GOD’S GRACE ENTER INTO A SACRED COVENANT.’

CHAPTER ONE -

‘Having accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord, and desiring to fulfil my membership of his church on earth as a soldier of The Salvation Army, I now by God’s grace enter into a sacred covenant.’

In his second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul reminds us that anyone who lives in Christ is a new creation.

As followers of Jesus, we have been given a new identity - and how we live our life matters.

Every aspect of our living is rooted in what we believe to be true; the rhythms and routines that make up our daily existence, our actions and reactions, the way we organise our time. It’s unlikely we will
become more like Jesus just by chance; there will be a need for intentional commitment and self-sacrifice.

The sacred covenant made by Salvation Army soldiers starts right there. It begins with an affirmation of faith, a statement of beliefs and a commitment to a lifestyle that holds true to these beliefs. This is a sacred covenant made with God and it is only through the grace of God in our life that we are able to make and keep these promises. In our humanness, we won’t always get it right. But God is not after perfection. He wants us to grow each day, depending on Him more and more.

Over the next few weeks, as we journey through Called to be a Soldier, we’ll take a look at the pattern for living laid out for us in Scripture, in the details of Jesus life, and how this is echoed in the sacred covenant made by Salvation Army soldiers.

The heart of the Father for each of us is to know and believe who we are in him. With his help, we can live a life that is pure in thought, word and deed. We can live confidently that in the messiness and mundane of our everyday lives, our God is always present and is constantly at work. We are his children and he is more deeply invested in our flourishing than we will ever understand.

Find The Salvation Army International Spiritual Life Development on Instagram and Facebook for more @SalvArmySpiritualLife
“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

- Galatians 3:26-29

In these verses, Paul is reminding the Christians in Galatia that they are all equal in the eyes of God. The characteristics that are so often used to separate us here on earth - gender, race, ethnicity, social class - do not define who we are in Christ.

The Salvation Army exists in over 130 countries around the world. While The Salvation Army may look a little different in each of these countries, our message and mission remains the same.

Our message is based on the Bible.

Our ministry is motivated by the love of God.
Our mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

We are a scattered Army, united in Christ.

We are The Salvation Army. And salvation is for everyone.

🌍 Where in the world are you? Let us know, leave a comment below

🔗 Find out more about Called to be a Soldier at sar.my/called or find the link in our bio
‘Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.’
- Matthew 5:16

We are called to be Kingdom people.

But what does a Kingdom person look like?

In Matthew, we find possibly the most influential sermon of all time - the Sermon on the Mount. Here Jesus teaches how to live a life that is dedicated to and pleasing to God, free from hypocrisy, full of love and grace, full of wisdom and discernment.

As followers of Jesus, how we live in the world matters.

The sacred covenant made by Salvation Army soldiers starts with a declaration of faith. And is quickly followed by a promise to live in a way that reflects, and is a witness to, that faith.

This way of living is not of the world.
We are called to stand out, to be salt and light, to live in a way that others will question.

To become people who are living joyfully in the kingdom of God with Jesus, regardless of the circumstances in the world we are living in.

We are called to live differently, not for our own sake but so that others who look on and see our good living, see Christ.

Are you living in way that draws people to goodness, to hope, to Jesus?

Find out more about Called to be a Soldier at sar.my/called or follow the link in our bio

You have a story to tell - share your experience of life with Jesus at salvarmyspirituallife.carrd.co
‘I know not what He is about to do with me but I have given myself entirely into His hands.’

- Catherine Booth

We don’t live for ourselves or our own interests. We live for our Creator.

Uncertainty can feel uncomfortable. But giving ourselves completely into the hands of God is the most certain uncertainty there is.

We don’t know what he will do with us, or what tomorrow will hold.

But we do know who God is.

He is above and before all things. He is trustworthy, infallible and faithful.

He who calls the stars by name also calls you by name. And every single step you take, he is with you.

This reality is the true reality of the children of the perfect and great Father.

☐ Find out more about Called to be a Soldier at sar.my/called or follow the link in our bio
You have a story to tell - share your experience of life with Jesus at https://salvarmyspiritualife.carrd.co
A prayer for today:

Lord we thank you that you are the God of transformation, and nothing is impossible for you.

Lord, we are scattered army, help us to be united in the same mind and for the same purpose. We think of the prayer that you prayed for your disciples, for us, that we would be one and that through our unity, others will see you.

Lord, let that be true today.

We are so thankful that we are able to talk to you but teach us to listen too. Help us to pause, to be still and to notice your greatness. And when we hear Your voice calling us into action, help us to respond without hesitation, to love as you do, to forgive as you do, to show compassion, grace and mercy as you do.

As we consider again what it means to be the body of Christ, united in you, give us each fresh eyes to see the areas of our own lives and the parts of our church life we are yet to give to you.
Align our hearts again with yours today so that your will will be done through us here on Earth. Lift the hurt and indifference from our hearts, give us a new energy and a deep desire to know you more.

Fill your church with a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit today.

Awaken our souls so that as we look around, we can see where you are already at work in our lives.

Lord, give us courage to give all that we are and all that we have to you today.

In the beautiful name of Jesus we pray,

Amen
Disciple.

Or mathētēs in New Testament Greek.

A word we use often but what does it really mean?

The standard lexicon for New Testament Greek defines the word ‘disciple’ (mathētēs) as ‘one who engages in learning through instruction from another, pupil, apprentice’.

In the first-century context, discipleship was all about learning.

Follow me. This was the call of Jesus to his first disciples.

From that day onward, the disciples spent their days following Jesus, watching his every move carefully and listening to his teaching. When we become disciples of Jesus, we are to spend every moment of our lives learning how to become more like him.
Discipleship is not a one-time deal. No matter how long we have been following Jesus, to learn and to keep on learning, we need to take responsibility; to make time to be with Jesus, to study his life and his character, to become more like him and to do the things he does.

💭 Who are you learning from?

💭 The most basic definition of disciple is ‘learner’. How does that make you feel?

💭 Who and/or what occupies your time and focus?

💭 Is being with and learning from Jesus a priority for you?