

TITLE: A GOOD SOLDIER**TEXT: 2 Timothy 2:1-7 (ESV)**

Now if we are going to fight this battle then we've got to know who our TRUE ENEMY is. Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) — 12 For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** over this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places.**

- **The scripture is full of verses about spiritual toughness:**
 - **1 Peter 5:8–9 (ESV) — 8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, **FIRM in your faith...**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV) — 58** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be **STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE,** always abounding in the work of the Lord...
 - **1 Corinthians 16:13 (ESV) — 13** Be watchful, **stand FIRM** in the faith, act like men, **be STRONG.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD SOLDIER:**A GOOD SOLDIER...****1) Shares in suffering**

- **2 Timothy 2:3–4 (ESV) — 3** **Share in suffering** as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
- **2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV) — 3** You therefore must **endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

A GOOD SOLDIER...**2) Does not cling too tightly to this world.**

- **2 Timothy 2:4 (ESV) — 4** No soldier gets **entangled in civilian pursuits...**
- **2 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV) — 4** No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with **the affairs of this life,**

A GOOD SOLDIER...**3) Has the right AIM in life.**

- **2 Timothy 2:4 (ESV) — 4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his **AIM** is to please the one who **enlisted** him.

A GOOD SOLDIER...

4) Is always on active duty.

- **Matthew 26:41 (ESV) – 41 Watch and pray** that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- **1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV) – 8 Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

A GOOD SOLDIER...

5) Is well acquainted with his/her weaponry.

- A. **2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV) – 4** For the **weapons of our warfare** are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.
- B. **Ephesians 6:13–18 (ESV) – 13** 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, 15 and, as **shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace**. 16 In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take **the helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**, 18 **praying at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,