

“Soldiers of Christ”

I. Introduction

- A. Scripture uses a number of figures and metaphors to paint “portraits” for us of what being Christ’s disciples is about. Among these is the term “soldiers of Christ.” Consider some things Scripture teaches connected to this theme.

Hymns for Worship, Songs 231, 376, 397

II. The Vicious Enemy

- A. Just as the Christian’s battlefield is spiritual, rather than carnal (**Eph. 6:12**), the enemy Christ’s soldiers fight is not a human enemy, but a spirit being; namely, Satan. **Ephesians 6:11**
- B. As our adversary, Satan viciously attacks us. He launches “fiery darts” (**Eph. 6:16**) at us as he tempts us to sin. Christ’s soldiers must take our enemy and his tactics seriously. **1 Peter 5:8**
- C. Though Satan is dangerous, he makes sin look enticing. His cunning and craftiness give further need for us to be spiritually trained, prepared, and watchful. **2 Corinthians 11:14**

III. The Almighty Commander

- A. While the enemy must not be under-estimated, our Commander is Almighty. If we obey His orders, follow His lead, and petition Him for assistance, we need not fear defeat. Strength is found *in Him*. **Ephesians 6:10**; *Song 231, verse 1*

IV. Sufficient Armor Provided

- A. Among the aid provided by our Commander is the spiritual armor He supplies. While God supplies this armor, it is up to each of us to put it on. **Ephesians 6:13**
- B. This armor includes the utility belt of truth, which we must study diligently and use properly. **Ephesians 6:14a**
- C. We must also put on the breastplate of righteousness by hungering and thirsting after it. **Ephesians 6:14b**

- D. Moreover, we must have our feet “fitted” with the Gospel of peace. We must be prepared to use the Gospel, defend it, and share it. **Ephesians 6:15**

- E. The shield God gives us to quench Satan’s fiery darts is faith. This involves unwaveringly trusting our Commander and His promises based on the guidance He has given us. **Ephesians 6:16**

- F. God also supplies the “helmet of salvation” to His children. Knowledge of the eternal salvation of the righteous is a strong aid when fighting Satan.

Ephesians 6:17a

- G. The one “offensive” weapon that is a part of the armor of God is the sword of the Spirit, which is His Word.

Ephesians 6:17b

V. Steadfastness Required

- A. Being soldiers of Christ also infers our need to stand steadfastly against the enemy, leaving “no unguarded place.” **1 Peter 5:9**; *Song 231, verse 4*
- B. Similarly, soldiers of Christ must have endurance to obey the Commander when the battle is tough. **2 Timothy 2:3**

VI. Loyalty Demanded

- A. Our role as soldiers of Christ also shows our need to avoid distractions that hinder us from dedicating the time needed to train and work for our Commander. **2 Timothy 2:4**

VII. Confidence for the Faithful

- A. Because of our Commander’s triumph over the enemy, faithful soldiers of Christ are assured victory. This confidence is a strong help in “fighting the good fight” of following and obeying Christ. **1 Timothy 6:12**; *Song 397, verse 4*

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