

For Whom Do You Serve?

I. Strength to Live Comes from Christ

- A. Grace brings strength to live. Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:1)
- B. The Christian is a soldier in the eternal war between good and evil. This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; (1 Timothy 1:18)
- C. Warfare demands moral integrity. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:7)
- D. The great issues of life comprise sets of little issues. Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. (1 Corinthians 16:13)
- E. War stories are easier than battles. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- F. God supplies His army. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (Ephesians 6:10)
- G. Keep your attention on the commander rather than on yourself. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)

II. Avoid Distractions

- A. The soldier's perspective is determined by his uniform. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (2 Timothy 2:4)
- B. Not everyone belongs in the army. And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it. And what man is he that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not yet eaten of it? let him also go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it. And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her. (Deuteronomy 20:5-7)
- C. Jesus will not take soldiers with other things on their minds and other obligations. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:59-62)
- D. The church has always struggled with people who loved the world more than God's call. For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. (2 Timothy 4:10)
- E. Jesus warned that the gospel would not flourish in all people. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. (Luke 8:14)
- F. Concentrate. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (1 Corinthians 9:25-26)
- G. Heavy backpacks make for tiring marches. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:9-12)

III. Trust God to Explain

- A. God has His reasons and will give them in His own time. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. (2 Timothy 2:7)
- B. Even the animals understand things wise men have trouble knowing. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. (Isaiah 1:3)
- C. Concentrate on what is known. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)
- D. Working with what you have rather than seeking what you don't will take you further. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. (1 Timothy 4:15)
- E. In time God will send the answers. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)