

“LIFE IS . . .”

LIVED THROUGH COMPARISONS

“SOLDIERS COMPARED”

**FORMATION OF THE SIX
BRANCHES OF OUR ARMED SERVICES**

“UNITED STATES ARMY” FORMED JUNE 14,1775

“UNITED STATES NAVY” FORMED OCT. 13, 1775

“UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS” FORMED NOV. 10, 1775

“UNITED STATES COAST GUARD” FORMED AUG. 4, 1790

“UNITED STATES AIR FORCE” FORMED SEPT. 18, 1947

“UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE” FORMED DEC. 20, 2019

“SOLDIER” DEFINED

**ONE THAT FIGHTS FOR A CAUSE -
ENDURES HARDSHIPS -
OR OTHERWISE CONDUCTS HIMSELF GALLANTLY**

2 Tim 2:3-4 NIV

ENDURE HARDSHIP with us like a GOOD SOLDIER of CHRIST JESUS. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-- he wants to please his commanding officer.

**WHEN WE THINK OF AN
“AMERICAN MILITARY SOLDIER”**

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**USUALLY THE FIRST IMAGE IN OUR MIND
IS AN INDIVIDUAL IN UNIFORM - CARRYING A WEAPON
HAVING A DEDICATED CONVICTION TO BE PREPARED TO
FIGHT AND EVEN DIE
IN DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY'S FREEDOM**

**BUT WHAT IS THE IMAGE WE HAVE
WHEN WE TRY TO PICTURE A
“SOLDIER OF JESUS”**

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**DO YOU ENVISION HE OR SHE DRESSED IN
THE ARMOR OF GOD UNIFORM**

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**ARMED WITH THE SWORD OF GOD
READY TO LIVE OR DIE FOR FREEDOM'S RIGHT TO
SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST?**

“THE MILITARY SOLDIER IS DRAFTED OR CONTRACTED TO FOLLOW

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THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER “CHOOSSES TO FOLLOW”

Matt 4:19-20 NIV

**“COME, FOLLOW ME,” Jesus said, “and I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.”
AT ONCE THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.**

**“THE MILITARY SOLDIER”
IS COMMITTED TO
“FIGHT FOR - AND DEFEND HUMAN FREEDOM IN THIS LIFE”**

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**“THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER”
FIGHTS FOR HUMAN FREEDOM TO FREELY CHOOSE ETERNAL LIFE**

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1 Tim 6:12 NIV

FIGHT the GOOD FIGHT of the FAITH. Take hold of the ETERNAL LIFE to which you were called when you made your GOOD CONFESSION in the presence of MANY WITNESSES.

**BOTH THE MILITARY AND CHRISTIAN SOLDIER
MUST MAINTAIN “DISCIPLINE”**

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1 Cor 9:24-27 NIV

²⁴- Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but ONLY ONE GETS THE PRIZE? RUN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GET THE PRIZE. ²⁵- Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶- Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷- No, I BEAT MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

**BOTH THE MILITARY AND CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS
MUST MAINTAIN “DEDICATION”**

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**THE MILITARY SOLDIER = IS EXPECTED TO BE DEDICATED
TO THE ORDERS OF THE OFFICER
“TEMPORARILY” IN CHARGE**

**THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER =
IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN DEDICATED
TO “GOD” WHO REMAINS “PERMANENTLY” IN CHARGE**

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John 2:5 NIV

His mother said to the servants, “DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.”

**BOTH THE MILITARY AND CHRISTIAN SOLDIER
MUST CONTINUE "TESTING"**

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**THE MILITARY SOLDIER IS TESTED
CONCERNING HIS
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ABILITY**

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**THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER IS TESTED
CONCERNING HIS
PHYSICAL - MENTAL - AND - SPIRITUAL ABILITY**

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2 Cor 12:7-10 NIV

⁷-To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a THORN IN MY FLESH, A MESSENGER OF SATAN, TO TORMENT ME. ⁸-Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹-But he said to me, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." Therefore I WILL BOAST ALL THE MORE GLADLY ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT CHRIST'S POWER MAY REST ON ME. ¹⁰-That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in WEAKNESSES, in INSULTS, in HARDSHIPS, in PERSECUTIONS, in DIFFICULIES. For WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.

Eph 6:13 NIV

Therefore put on the FULL ARMOR OF GOD, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, . . .

**SHIELD OF FAITH
HELMET OF SALVATION
SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
BELT OF TRUTH
BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
SHOES WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**