

# I've Enlisted

(1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3)

- Introduction:
1. I'm convinced that many in the church today are weak.
  2. We've grown soft, due to the lack of battle and engagement.
  3. Far from being "soldiers" on a battlefield, some soldiers of the cross are cowering deserters at the least little resistance.
  4. In this lesson, I want to encourage you to be strong and courageous, and to follow Jesus when it's hard.

## I. We Are Soldiers

- A. (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3).
- B. Friends, Christianity is not a social club, it's an army.
- C. Christianity is not about having your desires met, it's about spiritual warfare.
- D. Christianity is not about being served, but serving Christ.

## II. If We're At War

- A. We're all at war (Numbers 32:6).
- B. We must be prepared for war (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- C. We must fight for something worthwhile (Hebrews 11:9-10, 13-16).
- D. We must endure hardship (2 Timothy 2:3).
  1. I am a Soldier. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me or lure me.
  2. No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy or give me handouts. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for or catered to. I am a Soldier, and I am committed.
  3. I cannot have my feelings hurt badly enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit.

## II. We Need To Toughen Up And Strengthen Our Resolve

- A. (2 Timothy 2:3) Endure hardship as a good soldier.
- B. Consider what was said about Paul
  1. (Acts 9:15-16; Acts 20:23-24).
  2. (2 Corinthians 11:22-31).
- C. (Hebrews 11:32-38; Hebrews 12:4).
- D. What do we face today?
  1. Laughed at? Ridiculed? Gossip? Excluded? Feelings hurt?

- Conclusion:
1. Let us be good soldiers of Jesus Christ.
  2. Let us remember what's at stake, why we're fighting, and let nothing distract us from our service.