

Worship in Song

“Follow Me”

(Matthew 10:38-39)

- Introduction:
1. Tonight’s song was written by Ira Stanphill, in 1953. He also wrote:
 - a. “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow.”
 - b. He wrote around 50 hymns.
 2. I have always found this to be a moving song, and one that causes me to do some introspection.
 3. Therefore, I want to examine it with you tonight.

I. Verse 1 – It’s Too Hard

- A. (Galatians 6:9).
- B. (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).
- C. (Hebrews 12:4).
- D. I Am a Soldier (Author Unknown)
 1. I am a soldier in the army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer. The Holy Scripture is my code of conduct. Faith, prayer and the Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire.

I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity. I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out. I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable. If my God needs me, I am there. I am a soldier.

I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up, or pepped up. I am a soldier. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me or lure me. I am a soldier. I am not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name and building His kingdom!

No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards or candy, or give me handouts. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for or catered to. I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit.

When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing. If I end up with nothing, I will still come out ahead. I will win. My God has and will continue to supply all of my need. I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. The devil cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me.

Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me. Governments cannot silence me, and hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier.

Even death cannot destroy me. For when my Commander calls me from His battlefield, He will promote me to captain and then allow me to rule with Him.

I am a soldier in the army, and I'm marching claiming victory. I will not give up. I will not turn around. I am a soldier, marching heaven-bound. Here I Stand! Will you stand with me?

II. Verse 2 – I'm So Valuable

- A. (Luke 17:5-10).
- B. (Isaiah 64:6).
- C. (2 Corinthians 8:9).

III. Verse 3 – I'm So Indebted

- A. In this verse, we are aware of our indebtedness and offer martyrdom.
- B. But realize, God demands martyrdom, from all of us.
 - 1. Well, I'm making a play on words.
 - 2. The same word that is used to translate the word "martyr" is the same word that is translated "witness" or "to give a testimony."
 - 3. So it raises the question, "Was Stephen a martyr because he was killed, or was he killed because he was a martyr?"
- C. God expects us to do what we can, even if it is to give a cup of water in the name of Jesus (Mark 9:41).
- D. We need to resolve that whether in life or in death, I am going to glorify God (Romans 14:8).

- Conclusion:
- 1. May we...
 - a. Never grow weary.
 - b. Never overestimate our value.
 - c. Never forget our indebtedness to God.
 - 2. I hope this song helps you to remember these three important lessons.