

God Seeks Soldiers in His Kingdom?

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

2 Timothy 2:3

In the journey of faith, God demands the circumcision without hands in you as well as the saints are expected to be strong soldiers. 2 Timothy 2:4 says, “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.” In recruiting earthly soldiers, some are chosen while others who are unfit are dropped. When you are born again, you have scaled through the first selection hurdle – you are a child of God.

What is next is to prove that you are a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Why? There are bad soldiers of the cross. There are many supposed soldiers in God’s army who are no better than earthly civilians. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul enjoins fellow soldiers of the cross to fight the good fight of faith. We have been called to a fight. We have not been invited for a holiday cruise through life. This fight demands the strong development of courageous faith.

If you cannot fight to resist and overthrow Satan’s operation in your life, family or church, you are a civilian not a soldier. If you cannot fight to contend for the fulfillment of God’s promises in one’s life, you are a civilian not a soldier. What kind of a soldier is one who is armed and yet pleaded with fellow soldiers to assist him, when he should be personally resisting the enemies? That is a civilian soldier!

In God’s kingdom, we do witness many civilian soldiers (Ps 78:8-10). If you keep relying on others to pray for you, you are evidently a civilian soldier. If you give gifts or money to enlist intercessors to keep praying for you while you are slothful in your spiritual walk, you are a civilian soldier. Civilian soldiers like to be pampered and spoon-fed. They are always looking for the nursing mother to care for them. They never grow up. Civilian soldiers make God vomit. Listen! If you are a true soldier of the cross, you must endure hardness.

“Take your share of hardship, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” (NEB) When a little trial or difficulty obstruct your progress, you may quit in your mind, this is a sign of you being a civilian soldier. Good soldiers are trained to be tough in life. They can endure hardship through life. Good soldiers will never wear the helmet of hopelessness or despair. They are dressed to kill. Their mission is to defeat their enemies. God’s soldiers always win! (2 Cor 2:14)

The next time you cry over spilled milk (disappointments or setbacks), get up and run after the cow to milk again. The next time you murmur or complain, ask yourself: are you a soldier or civilian?