**A Soldier for Christ**

**Text**

**2 Timothy 2:1-4**

**2**You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2**The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. **3**Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4**No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**Overview**

The Bible describes the Christian life as a battle, and we as soldiers are privileged to serve under the greatest Captain ever-with an assured victory! We should be motivated to the highest standard of excellence.

**Lesson Theme**

As soldiers for the Lord Jesus Christ, we must be strong, getting the proper spiritual diet and exercise. We must be single-minded, enduring hardness and resisting distractions. We must be secure, understanding our position, our destination, and our commission.

**Lesson Objectives**

At the conclusion of the lesson, each student should:

1. Understand the reality of spiritual warfare.

2. Commit themselves to the disciplines that contribute to strength and focus.

3. Purpose to give Christ faithful obedience to the end.

**Teaching Outline**

* Strong Soldier
  + Diet
  + Exercise
* A Single-minded Soldier
  + Endures hardness
  + Remains free of entanglement
  + Obeys his Commanding Officer
* A Secure Soldier
  + Position
  + Destination
  + Commission

**Ephesians 6:12**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*

**2 Timothy 2:1 -** You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**Job 23:12 -** “I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

**PSALM 119:103 -** How sweet are Your words to my taste! *Yes, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

**JEREMIAH 15:16 -** Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.*.*

**1 Peter 2:2 -** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

**Romans 4:20 -** yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

**2 Corinthians 5:7 -** *For we walk by faith, not by sight*

**ROMANS 14:23 -** … whatever is not from faith is sin.

**ACTS 24:16** In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both* before God and before men.

**1 Timothy 4:7-8 -** But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

**Hebrews 5:14 -** But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

**2 Peter3:18 -** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen

**Timothy 2:3-5 -** Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules

What does it take to become a single-minded soldier?

What are the characteristics of a single-minded soldier?

**Timothy 2:3 -** Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus

**2 Timothy 3:12 -** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

**Matthew 5:10-12 -** “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**1 Peter 4:12-13 -** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

**John 16:33 -** These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

**1 Corinthians 15:58 -** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

**2 Timothy 2:4 -** No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**James 1:8 -** *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

**Matthew 8:8-9 -** But the centurion said, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9**For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does *it*.”

**John 14:2-3 -** In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

**2 Timothy 2:12 -** If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

**Corinthians 4:2 -** *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. kjv*

In this case, moreover, it is required [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+CORINTHIANS+4%3A2&version=NASB#fen-NASB-28436a)]of stewards that one be found trustworthy.*nasb*

1 **Timothy 6:12 -** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses

**2 Timothy** 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

**Study Questions**

1. What two elements are required for strength? What are the spiritual counterparts for the Christian soldier of these elements?
2. What are the three characteristics of a single-minded soldier?
3. What is the manual for the Christian soldier?
4. What is the promotion schedule for the Christian soldier?
5. On a scale of one to ten, where would you place your spiritual strength? What steps can you take to improve your spiritual diet and exercise to increase that number?
6. What hard circumstances is the Lord allowing in your life right now? What promises can you claim as you patiently endure?
7. What in your life is working to distract you from focusing on your duties as a soldier of Christ? What can you do to keep your focus?
8. Our Captain deserves our very best. In what ways could you increase your level of excellence to give Him your best?

**Memory Verse**

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:12)