

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1ST CORINTHIANS 14:8

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FIRST LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.

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Prayer Study #261

A CALL TO WAR

PREPARING TO FIGHT AND FIGHTING TO WIN

Revelation 12:17. *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

We are at war against the kingdom of darkness!

“We are at war.... The world in which we live is a combat zone, a violent clash of kingdoms, a bitter struggle unto the death. I am sorry if I am the one to break the news to you: *You were born into a world of war, and you will live all your days in the midst of a great battle, involving all the forces of heaven and hell and played out here on earth.* Where did you think all this opposition was coming from?” John Eldredge in *Waking the Dead*

Matthew 10:34b *...I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

1st Peter 5:8: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Exodus 15:3: *The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name.* (The Lord is in us who have received Him so the warrior is in us!)

Psalms 24:8: *Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.* (He is mighty in battle!)

Revelation 19:11: *And I saw the heaven opened and behold, a white horse, and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.* (One of the Lord's main purposes is to make war against the kingdom of darkness. To do this, He uses spirit-filled believers on the earth to make His enemies His footstool.)

Characteristics of a Christian Soldier

1. **The Army of God is spiritually fit, trained and equipped.** 1st Timothy 4:7-8: *But refuse profane and old wives' fables and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*
2. **Soldiers in the Lord's Army are not entangled by the things of this world.** 2nd Timothy 2:4: *No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*
3. **Soldiers in the Lord's Army are willing to endure hardness.** 2nd Timothy 2:3: *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*
4. **Soldiers in the Lord's Army wear the proper armor.** Ephesians 6:11: *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities [high ranking demonic figures who are over specific cities, towns, ministries, etc.], against powers [Evil spirits over institutions such as schools, churches, penal systems, the government, etc.], against the rulers of the darkness of this age [Demonic forces that influence literature, music, television, unbiblical teachings in our schools such as evolution and liberal sex education teachings, movies, slanted news reports, etc.], against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places [Demonic spirits behind occult groups, demon worship, cults, false doctrines, Islam, etc.]. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God....*
5. **Soldiers know their commander's voice.** John 10:2-5: *"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."* Revelation 3:15-16: *"I know your works, that you are*

neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

6. **Soldiers walk in obedience to their commander.** 2nd Corinthians 10:4-5: *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*
7. **Soldiers enjoy the spoils of victory.** 2nd Samuel 23:10: *He[David] arose and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary and his hand adhered to the sword; and the Lord wrought a great victory that day, and the people returned after him only to spoil.*

HOW TO WIN THE WAR!

1. **Identify your enemy.** *Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (1st Peter 5:8).*
2. **Listen to the Lord.** *And David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue; for thou shalt surely overtake them and without fail recover all"(1st Samuel 30:8).*
3. **Have a strategic plan.** *Where there is no vision, the people perish...(Proverbs 29:18).*
4. **Be under spiritual authority and keep the leadership informed.** *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God (Romans 13:1).*
5. **Seek Him with prayer and fasting.** *And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).*
6. **Don't throw your pearl before swine.** *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine; lest they trample them under their feet and turn again and lacerate you (Matthew 7:6).*
7. **Remember that there will be a counterattack against you when the enemy is being pushed back.** *When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, "I will return unto my house from which I came out." And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself;*

and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first (Luke 11:24-26).

- 8. Don't allow discouragement or fear stop you.** *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2nd Timothy 1:7)*
- 9. Go out in pairs. You need warriors around you to fight with you!** *And He called unto Him the twelve and began to send them forth by two and two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits (Mark 6:7).*
- 10. Fight until you win.** *And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day; and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, who rode upon camels and fled. And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away; and David rescued his two wives. And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons or daughters, neither spoil nor anything that they had taken in them; David recovered all (1st Samuel 30:17-19).*

WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER TO THIS?

1. The commandment of the Lord: Joel 3:9-10: *Proclaim this among the nations, Prepare for war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up; beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, I am strong.*
2. The state of the Church: Joel 3:14: *Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision; for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*