

## What Makes a Good Soldier?

### 2 Timothy 2:1-4

#### Sermon Summary

Every year we have more men and women enter into the military. We have some that give their very lives to defend our freedom both at home and abroad. This Sunday our desire is to show honor and respect to those that have served in the military for our country. We will look at the four marks of a good soldier and as Christians what are several things that we can do to show our appreciation of the service of the men and women who have fought for this country.

#### Four Elements of a Good Soldier

**Big Idea – Honor and Respect are More than Words...They are Action**

##### Element #1 – Courage

- **Joshua 1:9**
- **Key Point** – The first element of a good soldier is that of courage. Courage is not the absence of fear rather it is the ability and stamina to face that fear. It takes great courage to enter into the battle knowing that you might not come back alive, it takes great courage to face the enemy knowing that you might be taken captive, it takes great courage to fight but the soldier fights for the cause, the country, and for freedom. This is what drives the soldier to fight!

##### Element #2 – Strength

- **Psalm 18:32**
- **Psalm 29:11**
- **Key Point** – The second element of a good soldier is the element of strength. It takes great strength to enter into battle both physical and mental. The soldier is strong not because of the muscle that he has rather because of the resolve that he has. Every good soldier has resolved to enter into the battle for a greater purpose than merely saving his own life. They are not there merely following orders, they are there to defend those who cannot defend themselves, the widows, the hungry, the poor, the sick, their family, and many more. This great resolve drives them to fight for their country, their freedom, and for God.

##### Element #3 – Endurance

- **2 Timothy 2:3-4**
- **Key Point** – The third key element of a good soldier is that of endurance. It takes endurance to make it through the battle. Endurance is the will to survive no matter what the surroundings may be like, no matter how hard the terrain may be like. Endurance comes from the hand of God.

##### Element #4 – Sacrifice

- **John 3:16-17**

- **Romans 5:6-8** – You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Key Point** – The final key point is that of sacrifice. Every good sacrifice understands that ultimately they must be willing to sacrifice everything for the cause that they are fighting for and for the freedom they seek. They must be willing to give up their very lives and in this manner I believe that many soldiers can relate closest to the mission of Christ upon this earth.

#### Question to Consider

- *What are ways that you can honor a veteran or an enlisted military man/woman?*

#### Memory Verse

**Romans 5:7-8** – <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### Challenge

- This week send an encouraging word to one of our nations veterans or to an active duty military man/woman. Tell them “Thanks and that you will be praying for them!”

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