

# “Be Army Strong – For Jesus Christ”

II Tim. 2:1-4

The Army has enjoyed several recruiting slogans: The most notable one – 1980-2001, “Be All You Can Be.” From 2001 – 2006, “Army of One.” That was short lived: it was contrary to the idea of teamwork. Now, since 2006, “Army Strong.”

**Have you realized... that you are in the “Lord’s Army?”** Tonight, we need the resolve and understanding that David had when he faced Goliath – **I Sam. 17:45** “Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”

Paul said, **I Cor. 9:26-27** “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air, but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” Let’s look at 4 aspects of “Being Army Strong For Jesus Christ...”

**I. Enlist.** – Enlistment has two aspects...

**A. Salvation – V.1** “...*be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*” In Salvation... there is –

1. **Conversion:** Paul saw Timothy Converted to Christ – **Ch.1:2**. God gave Timothy = Grace, Mercy, and Peace.
  - a. **Eph. 2:8 / Rom. 3:24** “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:” Have you raised your “Hand (heart)” and taken the oath of office?
2. **Convincing:** Paul was Convinced that Jesus Christ is Able to Keep us Saved – **1:12!**
  - a. On earth, a man can desert his army; with God – He keeps you forever!

**B. Surrender – 1:9** “...*called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace...*” When we Surrender to serve under God’s Command...

1. God gives **Direction** – God has a “Holy Purpose” for each life.
  - a. In surrender... You decide your allegiance;
  - b. In surrender... You decide what side you’re fighting for! (*Who you will live for...*)
2. God gives **Strength** – **2:1** “...*be strong in the grace...*”

**II. Engage.** 3 key ORDERS = Guaranteed successful victory against our enemy involves...

**A. Suiting Up For Daily Battle** – You can’t be a good soldier without the proper battle gear. J.C. Ryle states, “*It is a fight of perpetual necessity. It admits of no breathing time, no armistice, and no truce. On weekdays as well as Sundays – in private as well as in public – at home by the family fireside as well as abroad.*”

**B. Surveillance Of Enemy Tactics** – **II Cor. 2:11** “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

**C. Setting Out To Win... no soldier plans and celebrates a loss! We have guaranteed VICTORY!!!**

1. **Eph 6:11** “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
2. **Eph 6:13** “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

**III. Expose.** – Fellow soldiers are greatly influenced by their own troops. A soldier learns to trust his life in the hands of his fellow man; and the fellow soldier does the same for him...

**A. Expose for your Fellow-Soldiers = The Gutless Maneuvers / Lies of Satan – II Tim. 2:24-26.**

**B. Expose for your Fellow-Soldiers = The Glory of Battles Won** – Share God’s victories in your life!

#### **IV. Endure.**

##### **A. Frontal Attacks.**

1. At times, Satan throws every trick in the book at us – and the battle rages! **But we stand for Jesus!**
  - a. His strength is perfect / His knowledge of the battlefield is complete
  - b. His missiles of truth always hit their target and send the enemy running

##### **B. Fractures in Confidence. – *We fail in the battle... we feel we don't have the strength...***

1. There are two kinds of strength needed to be a good soldier.
  - a. “Going Strength” – to keep on going.
  - b. “Staying Strength” – to be steady under pressure.
  - c. **I Chron. 16:11-12** “Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;”
  - d. **Psalms 105:4** “Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.”

##### **C. Fatalities of Fellow Soldiers.**

#### **Enlist, Engage, Expose, Endure...**

**I Cor. 15:57-58** “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”