

Winning Life's Battles

Dr. John Polis

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³You therefore must endure^[a] hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

To win the battles of life one must be a "good soldier."

INTRODUCTION

You will fight battles in life because of the fall of man and presence of evil spirits.

NUMBER 1. We are in a warfare.

A. With our own carnal inclinations.

JAMES 1:12-13

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

B. With fallen mankind.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

C. With evil spirits.

EPHESIANS 6:10-12

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but

against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

NUMBER 2. We are designed to win in Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14

Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

NUMBER 3. Qualities of a "good soldier."

A. Faithful - committed to the Cause. 1 SAMUEL 17:29; LUKE 4:18 (Jesus knew the "cause.") committed to the training process.

1 SAMUEL 17:29

And David said, "What have I done now? *Is there not a cause?*"

LUKE 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

LUKE 2:50-52

But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. ⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

MATTHEW 4:19

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

B. Strong - developing endurance thru hardship.

MATTHEW 26:38-39

Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." ³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."

2 TIMOTHY 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

C. Loyal - doesn't desert his company.

JOHN 8:29

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

2 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.

COLOSSIANS 4:14

Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

PHILEMON 1:24

as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

2 TIMOTHY 4:10

for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

1 JOHN 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

NUMBER 4. Good soldiers receive recognition. As we saw with the video.

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,

the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

A. Jesus was rewarded for faithful service. (we are in the service of the King)

PHILIPPIANS 2:7-11

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CONCLUSION

As good soldiers of Jesus Christ