

Good Soldiers Of Jesus Christ

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"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."

2 Timothy 2:1-4 (NASB)

Admiral Hyman Rickover was the father of the U.S. nuclear Navy. He once interviewed a Naval Academy graduate and asked him a very direct question: "When you were in school and in all your life, did you always do your best?" The young man started to say "yes" but then realized it wasn't truthful. "No," he said, "I didn't do my best all the time." Admiral Rickover looked at him with piercing eyes and said, "Why not?"

Why not? The question burned in the young man's heart, and it was a turning point in his life. That young cadet, Jimmy Carter, became the 39th president of the U.S. and wrote a book called *Why Not the Best?*

If you want to give your best to God, there are three things you must do that every soldier understands.

1. You must define what you would _____ for.

Soldiers know there are some things more valuable

than their own lives. Even Jesus talked about it: "*The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13 TLB). You measure love not by what people tell you but by their willingness to sacrifice everything they have for something.

2. You must sacrifice your own _____.

Soldiers do this all the time. They serve in extreme circumstances and don't make much money. They give up a lot of things.

You don't become a great man or woman of God by doing what's easy or comfortable. You do it by committing to something greater than yourself and then being willing to sacrifice for it. The greater your sacrifice in life, the greater your character will be. "*Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus*" (2 Timothy 2:3 NLT).

3. You must eliminate _____.

No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer" (2 Timothy 2:4 NIV). Soldiers know they can't be distracted if they want to be ready to respond to a leader's command.

If you want to be great, if you want to be the best you can be, you must start spending more of your time, money, and energy on things that are going to last

forever and less time, money, and energy on things that don't really matter.

If you want to give your best to God, why not start with these three steps?



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Pastor's Class

Sunday Church School

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