

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. 2 Timothy 2:3-7

All That You Ask Of Me

What does a good soldier look like to you? A good soldier is well trained. **Have I been training you?** Yes, you have. **What else?** A good soldier is strong and determined to complete his mission. He has a singular focus and is not distracted by civilian affairs. His desire is to please his commanding officer by following the orders that he has been given. No amount of adversity or hardship will cause him to withdraw from what he has been called upon to do. He will never give up. **How about you? Are you this good soldier? Will you follow me with that kind of determination? Don't answer me yet. I have more to ask of you.**

What does an elite athlete look like to you? An elite athlete has a vigorous and balanced training regime that includes exercise, rest and healthy nutrition. **How balanced has your training schedule been as you have followed me?** I have had a hard time staying in balance. **What do you mean by that?** There have been many times when I have over trained and allowed myself to become weary and worn out. **That's where you are right now isn't it?** Yes, I suppose that it is. There have been plenty of other times when I have not trained hard enough. I've been pretty lax about my growing, following and serving you. **But, not now?** No, not now. **Aren't you missing something that almost all elite athlete's have?** What's that? **Don't they all have a coach to help guide them in their training?** Yes, they do. **Who is your coach?** You are my coach. **Yes, I am. Will you allow me to guide your training as you follow me?** Yes, I will. **Are you sure?** Yes, I am. **You won't try to take control of your own training?** No, not anymore. I've tried that and it doesn't work out very well.

What does a diligent farmer look like to you? A diligent farmer labors with great perseverance until he receives a crop. He keeps patiently working until he sees the fruit of his labors. He is patient because he knows that he will reap what he sows in due time. **Do you have the patience of a diligent farmer?** I'm afraid that I don't. So often I want more immediate results. It's hard for me to wait until the time of reaping. **Do you believe that one day I will reward you for all the labor that you have done for me in this life?** Yes Lord, I do.

So let me ask you these questions. Go ahead. Will you serve me with the singleness of mind of a good soldier so that you will be able to fight the good fight of faith? Will you allow me to coach and train you so that you will be able to run the race I have laid out for you? Will you persevere as a diligent farmer so that you will be able to reap a rich harvest and enjoy the fruit of your labors? Yes Lord, I will. I know that I can rely on you to help me to be and do all that you are asking of me. **Yes, you can.**

Lord, it is you that gives me strength to endure hardship. Help me to keep moving forward with you like a focused soldier, a committed athlete and a hard working farmer. I want to live a life bearing an abundance of fruit for you. Amen

Spiritual Warfare *Endure Hardship*

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

NIV 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Endure Suffering*

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don’t get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

NLT 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Share In Suffering*

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier’s aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

NRSV 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Take Your Share Of Hardships*

Take [with me] your share of the hardships and suffering [which you are called to endure] as a good (first-class) soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier when in service gets entangled in the enterprises of [civilian] life; his aim is to satisfy and please the one who enlisted him. And if anyone enters competitive games, he is not crowned unless he competes lawfully (fairly, according to the rules laid down). [It is] the hard-working farmer [who labors to produce] who must be the first partaker of the fruits. Think over these things I am saying [understand them and grasp their application], for the Lord will grant you full insight and understanding in everything.

AMP 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Suffer Hardship*

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 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. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

NASB 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Share In Suffering*

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

ESV 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Endure Hardship*

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

NKJV 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Take It On The Chin*

When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did. A soldier on duty doesn’t get caught up in making deals at the marketplace. He concentrates on carrying out orders. An athlete who refuses to play by the rules will never get anywhere. It’s the diligent farmer who gets the produce. Think it over. God will make it all plain.

MSG 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Take Your Share Of Suffering*

Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do; and as Christ’s soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army. Follow the Lord’s rules for doing his work, just as an athlete either follows the rules or is disqualified and wins no prize. Work hard like a farmer who gets paid well if he raises a large crop. Think over these three illustrations, and may the Lord help you to understand how they apply to you.

TLB 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Spiritual Warfare *Share In The Troubles*

Share in the troubles we have like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. A soldier wants to please the enlisting officer, so no one serving in the army wastes time with everyday matters. Also an athlete who takes part in a contest must obey all the rules in order to win. The farmer who works hard should be the first person to get some of the food that was grown. Think about what I am saying, because the Lord will give you the ability to understand everything.

NCV 2 Timothy 2:3-7

Endure Hardship

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Spiritual Warfare – 2 Timothy 2:3-7

In Context: Read 2 Timothy 2

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

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Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

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Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, it is you that gives me strength to endure hardship. Help me to keep moving forward with you like a focused soldier, a committed athlete and hard working farmer. I want to live a life bearing an abundance of fruit for you. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

What kind of hardships have you suffered and endured as a good soldier of Jesus Christ?

How have you refrained from becoming involved in civilian affairs because you are a good soldier of Jesus Christ?

How has your love for Jesus Christ motivated you to please Him in all that you think, say and do?

How are you allowing yourself to be trained like an elite athlete as you follow and serve Jesus Christ?

What will you receive from Jesus Christ, when you meet Him in heaven, because you have served Him on earth?

What are you allowing to be planted into your life so you will bear fruit for Christ in this life?

When, as a hard working farmer for Christ, will you receive a crop and the fruit of your labors for Him?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Commit yourself to following and serving the Lord with all the strength and endurance He will give to you.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that all your endurance and faithful service to Christ will be rewarded when you meet Him in heaven.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how Christ is bearing fruit through your enduring faithfulness to Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you endure hardship as you faithfully follow and serve the Lord.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will endure hardship as I faithfully follow and serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I faithfully endure hardship as I follow you today?
