

WORDS FROM A WISE VETERAN

II Timothy 2:1-3

"...endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Endure = Stay faithful in your Christian service

Hardness = Tests, trails, difficulties, battles

"...as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

As true believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to be good and faithful soldiers as we engage in this battle.

Not a battle with guns, bombs, missiles, or jet planes, nor against a human enemy. But a spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:10-13

v. 12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Mankind is not our enemy, but they can be used as tools by the enemy.

When we are saved by trusting in the Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we are not only adopted into God's family (John 1:12, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:5), but we are recruited into the Lord's Army - called by the Lord to engaged in this spiritual battle against the agents of evil and darkness.

The kids have a Christian song that they love to sing about this battle and our part in it.

Let us reconsider the words to better prepare us for the spiritual battle we will all face.

I. The Rallied Redeemed *"I will march in the infantry"*

**Infantry = Combat by individuals
soldiers engaged on the ground or foot**

Jesus said, *"Follow me..."*

Jesus commanded, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15)

II. The Revelation *"Ride in the cavalry"*

**Cavalry = Historically, cavalry are
soldiers who fought on horseback**

**Saint = True believers in
the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Revelation = In reference to the return
of the Lord Jesus to earth**

Jude 1:14-15 *"...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints..."*

Revelation 19:11-14 *"And the armies which were in heaven followed him..."*

III. Retaliation "*Shoot the artillery*"

**Retaliation = Battle back against
the enemy's advancement**

*We are to "...earnestly contend for the faith
which was once delivered unto the saints."*
(Jude 1:3)

Earnestly = Faithfully endure

Contend = Battle

*"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the
word of God:"* Ephesians 6:17

*"(For the weapons of our warfare are not
carnal, but mighty through God to the
pulling down of strong holds;)"*
II Corinthians 10:4

Carnal = Of the flesh

*"Put on the whole armour of God...
Praying always with all prayer... for all
saints;"* Ephesians 6:10, 18

**Our retaliation in the spiritual battle, our
artillery we are to use, is the weapon of prayer
and the Word of God the Bible.**

IV. Rapture *"I will fly over the enemy"*

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."* (v. 16-18)

Rapture = When the Lord calls all the believers out of the this world and we meet Him in the air

The Rapture will happen 7 years before the Revelation, but no one knows the day or the hour of our Lord's return (Matthew 24:36).

V. Recruit *"For I'm in the Lord's Army"*

II Timothy 2:1-3

Recruit = Enlisted, signed-up, enrolled, engaged, take on, or round up

*I will march in the infantry
Ride in the cavalry
Shoot the artillery
I will fly over the enemy
For I'm in the Lord's Army
Yes Sir!*

VI. Reminder of Reward at Christ's Return

II Timothy 4:1-8 - Crown of Righteousness for everyone that loves His appearing