

6-24-2022

THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

A CALL TO ARMS

If you have complied with God's requirements to receive forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus, you have enlisted in the army of the Lord. You are a spiritual soldier with the responsibility to "fight the good fight of faith" which will allow you to "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12). Rather than allowing evil to intimidate you to silence, as a fighting soldier you must use the spiritual weapons at your disposal to "expose the unfruitful works of darkness" (Ephesians 5:11). No, soldiers in the Lord's army do not use guns, bombs, or missiles to fight the enemies of our Commander. Inspiration declares, "For the **weapons of our warfare are not carnal** but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Spiritual soldiers are armed with the most powerful weapon against evil in existence. The Hebrew writer describes it in Hebrews 4:12, "For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Though God has given us a powerful weapon against evil, we soldiers must utilize it and do so properly (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bible tells us, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13). The Christian's armor consists of both offensive and defensive weapons including the "Sword of the Spirit" and the "Shield of Faith." Every part of our armor has its basis in the Word of God (See Ephesians 6:13-18). But until we put on the armor and go to battle, we remain vulnerable and susceptible to defeat.

Our Commander-in-Chief is Jesus Christ. He calls every Christian soldier to battle. He is in the front of the battle, and we must follow Him to ultimate victory. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). Dear Christian, take your stand against evil. Answer the call to arms. "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith" (1 John 5:4).

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