

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

THE DISCIPLINE OF A GOOD SOLDIER

1 Timothy 4:1-12 Jeff Schreve

Are you disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness?

1. There is a spiritual battle raging all around us.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

A. The devil attacks with subtle lies and deception.

B. The devil uses people as his messengers to corrupt others.

Those teachings come through people who tell lies and trick others. These evil people cannot see what is right and what is wrong. It is like their conscience has been destroyed with a hot iron.

1 Timothy 4:2 ERV

But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him [Elymas, the magician], and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? Acts 13:9-10

C. The devil wants us to think negatively about God.

And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" Genesis 3:1

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely. Genesis 2:16

2. There is a desperate need for disciplined soldiers.

A. Discipline is hard work.

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. 1 Timothy 4:10

B. Discipline is heart work.

Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah. Psalm 62:8

C. Discipline is profitable work.

3. There is a lasting impact from disciplined soldiers.

A. We make a difference when we are faithful to tell the truth.
"Is it cruel to tell a man the truth? Is a man to be called cruel who declares the whole gospel of God and points out to men their danger? Is it cruel to arouse sleeping people to the fact that the house is on fire? Is it cruel to jerk a blind man away from the rattlesnake in the coil? Is it cruel to declare to people the deadliness of disease and tell them which medicine to take? I had rather be called cruel for being kind, than to be called kind for being cruel." --Dr. R. G. Lee

B. We make a difference when we are faithful to live the truth.
Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:12

Will you discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness?