

A. 2 Timothy 2.3-4 we're in the Lord's army – automatically in when BA

1. being a Christian does not just entail the blessings; there are responsibilities
(Galatians 2:20 S1) 'I know my life is not my own' – do we mean this?
2. gospel = Good News - actually military term - good news sent from front line
3. military - different way of life (Nicholson 'Few Good Men'); Christianity also
 - a. boot camp – learn discipline; wake up time; bed time; exercise; learn their way; team work; always on call; unity to live – Elliott's Beach (walking Gracie)
 - (Isaiah 55:8-9 S2) God's ways are not our ways; they work, know them
 - b. they were tough on you: they would not let you quit – quit here, quit there, you will die and get others killed; if we quit as Christians others will be 'killed'
 - never say 'I can't' - slide for life; wet/sandy – devil humiliates you
 - (Philippians 4:13 S3) there is no such thing as I can't in Jesus; 'I can do....'
 - they wanted to fight - earned rank/money; we earn eternal rewards
 - difference – USMC, once you sign up you have no choice; as Christian you do

B. Spiritual Warriors

1. (2 Timothy 3:12 S4)/2 Corinthians 11:22-28 deep sea diving - fight for people
 - a. discipline/exercise - get up to pray/read Word - stay up to pray/worship
 - b. say no to bad things/yes to good things
 - c. learn God's ways - Word; eat the right food - Word
 - d. refuse negative speaking/discipline body against sin
2. v3 'endure hardness' only way to live - Zig Ziglar - easier and more natural all the time – preparing you to fight and win
 - a. 3rd tanks supported the infantry
 - b. my uniform was always clean, starched, hat stiff and perfect, boots shined
 - message center; never fought or really was in danger
 - c. grunts - muddy, filthy, worn boots, torn flak jackets, bandoleers, bleeding from scratches, bites, scrapes, wounds - you had no doubt they were in a battle
 - PB grateful did not fight in Vietnam, always felt guilty around those grunts
 - like the big football game on a rainy/muddy night and your uniform is clean
 - clean uniform 'look good Christians' no real soldier - 'ship in port'
 - d. they were tough, ready to fight and they knew how to fight - all they did
 - Marines tough – Japan; killed comrade; Christians can learn how to fight
 - e. (Judges 7:2-3 S5) more than 2/3 did not want to fight - similar today (22K/10K)
3. weapon – know how to use it; blindfolded; PB had a tough time here
 - a. know weapons - how to use them; keep them clean and in good operating condition
 - know your weapons - become proficient through use; Word, Prayer, Holy Sp

- you can be physically strong – no match for devil without God’s weapons
 - b. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) the weapons of our warfare; (Ephesians 6:10-18) learn tactics of enemy by Word, experience - personal and others
 - PB the years of fighting toughened them - looking for fight - ready/knew how
 - c. no bullets; did not fight; grow soft; fall off truck; asleep in tower
 - d. more than conqueror; always cause me to triumph; can do all things, etc.
4. there was little direct confrontation - the Marines were too tough - casualties came from ambushes, sneak attacks and booby traps
- a. (1 Peter 5:8) devil looking for whom he can devour; he cannot devour the strong
- Deuteronomy 25:18 how he attacked you when you were tired, barely able to put one foot in front of another, mercilessly cut off your stragglers, and had no regard for God.
- b. no fighting in rear – too much time to gripe, petty tasks, gossip
5. v4 leaders fought too - respected them - SSgt Crosby; LtCol Sleger
- a. (Hebrews 4:15 S6) betrayed, persecuted, abandoned - His CO never let him down
 - b. (Colossians 2:15 S7) our CO was in the war too – respect, honor Him
 - c. (Philippians 3:10 S8) Paul loved the Lord and cared nothing for the affairs of this life
 - he wanted to please his CO - make effort and this happens automatically
 - e. (Acts 5:40-41) P&J rejoiced to suffer for His name - they knew Him and His character - knew He also went through it - honored to do His work; us too
6. from a historic standpoint America not behind the Viet Nam war
- a. their home country has given them propaganda (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
 - b. Home Country (heaven) and its Leader is behind you all the way in this war (Matthew 25:21, 23) well done.... This is better than any rank or money
 - c. (2 Timothy 4:7 S9) what will we say; fought good fight, finished race, kept faith
7. tattoos - semper fi; death before dishonor; bulldog; eagle, globe & anchor
- a. spiritual tattoos - always faithful to Him; willing to die rather than dishonor Him; bulldog tenacity; soar like an eagle, world vision, anchored to Jesus
- Ephesians 1:13 And because of what Christ did, all you others too, who heard the Good News about how to be saved, and trusted Christ, were marked as belonging to Christ by the Holy Spirit, who long ago had been promised to all of us Christians.
8. Galatians 6:17 ‘don’t mess with me’ veteran; had been through it; knew who he was
- a. this is one war I intend to be in; Paul proud of his scars - Jesus has them
 - b. you can be safe ‘in the rear’ - but do little to win the war
 - c. I intend to look like I’ve been in a battle because I have been in one - front lines
 - salute Him and say ‘Mission accomplished, Sir’; ready for next assignment