

# Becoming a Soldier in God's Army Requires a Personal Calvary

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## **The School of Prayer**

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Some [?] a famine of [?] that the Word of God be preached in truth. Now that is a prophecy concerning, I believe now. And [?] will rise up everywhere and will be ready to make incredible sacrifice of traveling when they hear there is any truth being preached. And I think that is what is happening in our world today. If it is something that is this... you can just identify with and say, "This is an uncompromised presentation even if it comes through a weak man. We are going to hear it."

So I do bless God for the remnant of God's people that travel from state to state all over, drive from all over this country to hear these messages that God has burned into my heart, a great privilege that God has given me, having such lovely people and trusting and praying for me and attending all these meetings.

I don't think I have to say thank you to anyone else. If I forget anyone, forgive me. Craig for fetching me at the airport, a joyful face and hospitality in your apartment, brother and letting me walk around Portland. I am not really a city person, but I was so sick of sitting and I had one afternoon off for the first time since I arrived in America. The plane actually arrived in time for me to have about four hours of walking. I walked and walked and walked. And Craig didn't mind.

[?] go with me here and taking me home after this so I can catch the airplane that came to seven tomorrow morning it flies from Portland.

Now I am doing something wrong otherwise Craig wouldn't be making this stop whistling. You want me to [?] my voice up, brother. I have got to do something to stop this whistling.

Ok. If it whistles, it is like someone standing behind you whistling while you are preaching. You ought to try. You people won't have any confidence in this poor man at all, his protections of himself, you know. When you get tired your mind is 10 times harder to concentrate, mental tiredness. So have mercy on the poor man, ok? There is nothing of venom in my heart or carnality there, just [?] help... help me to survive. I want to because I really more than anything else in life I suppose than standing in the pulpit.

It is a great privilege God has given you, young man, that God is leading you to one day say to all ambitions, "No. I couldn't stoop to that."

Don't stoop to become a king if God calls you to be a preacher.

Who said that? Who knows? Now, who reads biographies? No, that was Carey, William Carey, the very godly Carey. Oh, bless the Lord.

Who said this? Only one life to live, it will soon be past. Only works done for Christ will last.

And he left a mansion and went into huts and [?] floors.

Who said that? Hudson Taylor.

No, that wasn't, that was C T Studd.

Yes, we won't go on with all the question time now.

Young man, don't stoop to be a king if God calls you to preach. I don't think I [?] sense God's presence apart from one occasion in my life to the degree that I sense him almost every occasion I stand in the pulpit. That is why I love the pulpit more than anything else, why I love the pulpit. I sense God here. And there is no... in thy presence is fullness of joy. You will never know better joy than knowing you have stepped in the presence of God, this side of heaven.

*Father, keep us under the blood of Jesus and come wash me in the blood afresh again and send me the Holy Spirit to anoint my heart and my mind and every faculty of my being and the words thou hast given to me and the hearts of each person here that we may be this building [?] changed radically from when we came. [?] in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.*

A great general in a great army once wrote careful instructions, once wrote careful instructions to all those soldiers who had enlisted to go to war for their king. He inspected, he expected every soldier to carefully read and obey these instructions. He expected every soldier to carefully read and obey these instructions before they dared to go out to battle.

[?] have been recorded in this holy book have been preserved for us in this holy book that he wrote for every soldier that would ever go or dare to go to war for their king. And there found in Ephesians chapter six verse 10, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the

wicked. Wherewith you shall be able to quench, to undo, to put to nothing anything Satan hurls at you, anything Satan has got to give. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

This same general wrote this particular instruction to a young exemplary officer in that army who he esteemed above all other men. There is no man like this. This exemplary, godly young man was called Timothy. And I want you to listen to the specific instructions he gave to this godly, exemplary example of all the believers.

What... the first letter he wrote to him, 1 Timothy chapter six verse 12. “Fight the good fight of faith.”

There is a fight in Christianity, brothers and sisters. Don’t doubt that. And it is holy and sacred as a commission.

“Fight the good fight of faith.”

1 Timothy one verse 18.

“ This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war...” Go to war now. There is a war God wants you to go to if you are right with him. “...that though by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.”

2 Timothy 2:3.

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Are you a soldier of Jesus Christ? Or do you have no understanding, no concept, no conscience or consciousness that there is a war that you should be involved in? There is nothing as [?] as a Christian that doesn’t know this is a war he is in because he doesn’t know what is going on. And, oh, he must be confused. Oh, he must be confused.

2 Timothy 4:7.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

I fought a good fight. Hallelujah. This godly man, this godly man has the great general William Booth who led the Salvation Army to literal war once God got hold of him. He

led the Salvation Army to literal war once God got hold of him. He shook and angered the evangelical church world wide to the core, worldwide when he fearlessly cried out these words. "The true Church of Jesus Christ was never meant to sit at ease in monuments of wealth and luxury as it does. They are called to deny themselves, to take up the cross and to follow Christ to death if need be to reach the souls he has died for with the gospel."

They are called to deny themselves. When did you do that? Or don't you know such language in your testimony, in your life of ease?

You sing, "Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war." Have you ever once as a soldier of God denied yourself, taken up the cross and followed Christ to death if need be to reach the souls he has died for with the gospel? And, beloved, with Christ he has tasted death for every man, for every man. He is the propitiation, the way to God, the atoning sacrifice for our sins as Christians, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world, God says. Every man and no man unreachable through faith.

And he began to shake the world. Booth cried out, "This world is a battlefield between God and Satan. And pity the Christian who doesn't know it."

This world is the battlefield between God and Satan for the souls [?] and we are charged to be soldiers of the cross. We are charged when we are saved, according to 2 Corinthians chapter five verse 17 onwards. The moment you find God the world is your responsibility with what you know and have found.

Booth said, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, not human weapons, but mighty to God to the pulling down of strongholds."

There is no stronghold Satan has on any man on this earth that we cannot pull down and undo to reach that man if we take up the weapons God has given us through faith with the sword of the Spirit to undo anything that the damage done in the hearts and consciences and minds. There is no one that cannot be reached with the weapons God has given us. Every man is our responsibility. Every man is our responsibility. And the closer you are to God, brother, the more you will have the whole world on your heart.

For God says, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

Booth was despised. He was so despised by the evangelical church worldwide they were his greatest enemies at the beginning. They were so sickening and so rebuked that they began from the pulpits across the world, many multitudes of believing churches evangelically to denounce this man as uneducated. He took to the streets. But Booth began to frighten those condemning words. Suddenly it was not such a forceful cry when he began to reach the unreachable.

Booth, it was said, could not pass a drunk once in his life. I don't know another man that could be said of in this world's history.

Booth was incapable of passing a drunk lying in the gutter or a broken life, woman or man in the gutters in the streets. He knelt beside them and he wept and he lifted them up and he carried them and other carried them. He clothed them. He fed them. He housed them. He prayed them through and soon multitudes of drunks, multitudes of drunks and prostitutes, multitudes, not some.

An army was growing that was beginning to make the world tremble, an army of the unreachable in the eyes of most.

Booth said to the Church, "You are too good for God to use you."

[?] no church door you would feel uncomfortable and they would be uncomfortable by the discomfort they see in your eyes and your reaction. And this is your class, your culture, your stand. You don't want them.

God wants you to stoop to the broken and [?] the broken and destroyed lives.

And how is he going to reach [?] too good for God to use?

He marched one day past one of the great buildings of our faith, evangelical and there was scowls from the crowd. He had dressed the drunks and prostitutes and broken lives and criminals who had come to Christ, a few score, in an army uniform. Booth's never was a denomination to write up called the Salvation Army. It broke his heart when it had to be shown. He wanted the world to look upon the evangelical church worldwide as the salvation army of God, not a church. He had nothing in his heart for a denomination, nothing.

As he marched these men, clothes, nothing shining, lovely material from the best tailors [?] material he put into a uniform in his own way that staggered everybody who was so unique. He put [?] he took these men and held across them blood and fire.

And he said, "We have one weapon. You will get to know how to use this," he said to these drunks.

"Such were some of you, but ye are washed."

Hallelujah, no one can't be.

This is our weapon. The more you can handle it, the more God will use you. He is trying as he taught them.

These drunks he prayed through who became holy men of God.

As he marched passed this one great building singing, “Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,” with a cymbal [?] and the big drum and one or two trumpets playing weakly and voices not the best choirs, heaven was [?] because they weren’t singing words that meant nothing.

What percent of the hymns you have song, brothers [?] young person meant nothing? They were marching to war, many to death.

You know when the world started condemning Booth? Do you know what it was? His soldiers lay dead in the streets, beaten, their skulls beaten open by the wicked criminal [?] no territory belongs to Satan that we cannot undo and reach the worst.

So he marched and on the front page of the world’s greatest newspaper, they began to report in a war that had never been reported on, the war between God and Satan. Do you know why? Because even the unsaved had to take note of a man that no one was unreachable in his eyes and he was reaching them.

Soon 100,000 strong rose up in this world through this godly man. In many parts of mainly the British Empire, colonies, he went and somehow an [?] to him and he reached... Booth reached them. He reached them. He marched to the brothels, town upon town. He marched with his army of women who many were prostitutes, many were battle women that he picked up and carried to salvation.

Have you ever done that, brother? Have you denied yourself having to face up to sacrifice for a soul? It is going to cost you more than to say to the number I won so many to God, but I wouldn’t do one effort if it is going to put me out. That’s exactly right.

Outside of the brothels they say his voice was so piercing it [?] no one was not undone by this man’s voice. God gifted him with a voice that [?] through the buildings. And he cried out on every occasion the Scriptures condemning their sin. Outside of the brothels upon brothels and city upon city he would march carefully with his army singing and then, with no loud speakers, with cries that everyone in those buildings heard every word even if the windows were closed, so gifted was he with the voice God gave him.

He wept mostly when he preached they said. They say his harshest words throbbed with such love men and women who had never ever had once in their life a conviction of sin were broken within minutes, weeping and sobbing under conviction by the compassion.

Strongly as he cried out the condemnation before the next breath came that man was crying out that he tasted death for everyone and [?] knowing your sin. Christ died for you.

He will in no wise turn away anyone who comes to him through Christ Jesus. It is not the will of God that any should perish but that all should come to repentance through Christ Jesus.

Booth called upon the name of the Lord [?].

Whosoever will, let him come. Now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of salvation. If you will harden not your hearts. Now I can say to you, now, come while you can. Come while you may. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him and to our God for he will abundantly pardon. Oh, seek ye the Lord while he may be found. Don't harden your hearts. Now [?] Tomorrow may be too late. If you will harden not your hearts as they did here in the day of provocation, now I can do something. Oh, turn ye, turn ye from your evil way. Why will you die, God cries.

Oh, his harshest word was suddenly engulfed by love from God's heart to this book. This is a staggering thing reported now at this occasion on the headlines of most of the world's prominent newspapers across the whole world, front line as Normandy did in for the great wars between nations [?] the war between God and Satan for a man demanded that even the conscience of the [?].

With solemnity they reported as he cried at the brothels. They streamed out. It is said never longer than 20 minutes. I don't know if that is true, but in one statement [?] every prostitute was on their knees weeping, broken. God loved. They knew they were condemned. They just didn't know how much God loved them in their sin, in spite of their sin. He hates your sin, but he loves your soul.

The came to Christ and put on a uniform. When they stood, the moment they stood, who they could stand. And if they had a thirst for [?] Booth gave them a uniform. He said, "You are a soldier of God now, to win the next one."

Beside these prostitutes men knelt who were betraying their wives and children. In the streets they knelt under such conviction, brokenness, weeping to God for mercy on their souls.

Brothel upon brothel closed down and the world's newspapers in the front pages reported on the staggering phenomena that was going on and the man of God called William Booth who was marching to war against Satan and his [?], to set the captives free.

And he would not retreat.

Booth [?] front line, front page headlines. Booth marches his soldiers into the crime infested, gang infested areas where the mafia rule, where police are scared to venture for fear of not coming out alive. He marches. His soldiers lie dead in their scores, their skulls smashed open by crowds storming down with batons, bashing them, smashing with big steel barrels filled with coals they would pour on these bodies until stench of burning bodies all over the streets, Booth weeping aloud, conscious of what was going on would say to his soldiers, "We will not retreat."

The Church worldwide couldn't condemn him any longer. He would bring the worst criminals on earth to God. Their testimonies were being printed and spread across the earth. Men who would [?] criminal elements in areas, large areas of cities across the world. But Booth had something else in mind.

One day he marched to the mafia head of the world, the leader, the most feared man on earth in mafia circles. And everyone knew where he was going.

And [?] came a whole team of men with steel bars and wooden bars and they began to smash these [?] and blood flowed like a river in some, blood pouring as they just carried on in their anger and their venom of God's people entering into the devil's territory to save the devil's children who had chosen strongly to serve the devil.

But Booth marched on. He marched until he [?] nothing indeed with 60 of the world's leaders in the mafia, 60 under this man, feared by thousands of the mafia gang leaders of the world. Answerable to him where they died.

Booth stood up in that building, soldiers dead down the streets, lying dead all down the streets. Those who were still standing with him [?] weeping, weeping. It was not easy to follow William Booth to the heart of Satan's strongholds. But they followed him.

Tears were pouring down his eyes. And yet they say never was there anger in his eyes, only love. Only love could be seen in those eyes no matter what they did to him and gentleness that undid the hardest sinner.

Booth through profanity and blasphemy at him and [?] again and again [?]. Only love reacted to [?] and he won them.

Outside Booth cried out and he cried out the Scriptures of the judgments of God upon the sinner, upon wicked men. The eternal damnation went on and on and then he cried out the love of God. But, suddenly under such conviction as that voice creeps into those with more, reached every ear and every heart, 60 men ran out of that door screaming like animals. They were under such conviction they were screaming like animals.

They had began to beat the soldiers. One man behind Booth held down and blood just poured and [?] flowed on to Booth's boots. And he said to this mafia leader standing in front of him, hurling abuse and profanity at him and anger and hatred with love in his eyes, "God still loves you."

[?]

I hate your sin. God hates your sin. But he loves your soul. He died for you while you were yet sinners, knowing what you would be doing, knowing this, knowing this. And I want you to find forgiveness and no judgment. I want you to find eternal life, the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.



This man so smashed in his heart, tears coming down his face, but true anger in his eyes in the face of Booth in the most [?] and spat again and saliva covered this man's face, this godly William Booth.

As he did that, the other men walked up to those [?] still standing and spat all over them, spitting and spitting until their faces were covered with saliva. A man behind Booth, whimpering in fear and Booth turned and looked. He started to wipe the saliva and Booth stepped back and did something that made heaven stand and hell tremble. Booth took hold of his arm and said, "Brother, don't wipe it off. These are medals for a true soldier of the cross."

And he looked at this man and he said, "God still loves you. I still love you. Come to Christ."

This man fell. How could anyone stand through that love? On his knees he sobbed like a baby and Booth led him to Jesus Christ, the most feared mafia [?] on earth crumbled under God's love [?]. And the repercussions never stopped.

Oh, what happened in that man's life. All 60 men fell down in what they saw that man doing and wept to God for God to save their souls, the [?] that would help them. All were imprisoned. Most were put to death. And they died, they died testifying. They had no fear of death. They are going straight to heaven. There is no condemnation to them that is in Christ Jesus. And hallelujah, we know we pass from death unto life when we are saved.

The Spirit himself beareth witness with your spirit that you know, we know. We are the children of God. We have eternal life.

These men had no fear of death. While they lived, they lived [?] to Christ. Those that were allowed to live, Booth said they didn't wear the same color army uniform, but it was the same army uniform. They used prison uniforms. But they were just as much soldiers in the army of God [?]. For it isn't the color of the material. It is [?].

Their Bibles were in tatters before they died. This is a wonderful testimony of those men, tatters. They had won so many to God in the prisons it was something beyond comprehension that so many, even the warden and the police came to them to find Jesus Christ. Christ was still in these men.

You think the devil can stop you because you are put in prison for what you have [?]? No. He is in trouble. He will just win the world in the prison. That is probably why God allowed them to live and die in dignity, at peace with a testimony that few outside the prisons could have won and the respect of multitudes within the prisons and out for what the fruit of their lives was they way they lived for Jesus Christ, the salvation army officers in prison.

And the prisons were filled with salvation army officers across the world before Booth died filled. Men who had to go to prison for life by some [?] prisoners to God and their multitudes.

When Booth was an old man word got out that he was going to preach again in a conference, a convention that people crossed the Atlantic, people crossed lands, former prostitutes and drunkards and criminals made great sacrifices to hear the general once more.

I wish I could have been there. Of course, [?] in heaven.

When he walked out silence, an uncanny silence. It was like nobody could breath as they saw this frail but tall, but thin man with a long white beard and his uniform and his eyes. [?] God's love.

Never was there anger, always love. [?] was the big velvet ribbon with golden letters, blood and fire.

He stood and said certain things, but this is his last statement. "I have one requirement of you to use that army uniform. I have one requirement of you to stay in that army uniform, that you can look the world in the eyes and say, 'I have had a personal Calvary with Jesus Christ and denied myself of everything in life for the privilege of taking up the cross God want me to and to bring this world to God. I have laid my life on the altar of God and had absolute surrender and I am filled with God the Holy Spirit, controlled and he never, never controls you until you have had a personal Calvary. But when he does, the love of God is set abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost and the love of God that was revealed in the cross will be revealed in your life every step you take that you have had a personal Calvary. To every soldier, come here. If you cannot say that has happened in your Christian experience I would ask you to be careful to keep that uniform on for to seek it desperately before you bring shame to God's name and on this army.'"

Tell me. Have you ever had personal Calvary, brother, sister? Have you ever denied yourself every day in that moment of absolute surrender, taking up a cross no matter what it costs to follow Christ, to death if need be?

I am going to be careful here. God doesn't want you and I can point you and you know this to God and [?] areas tonight and buy. You know that I don't request [?], but I would ask every one of you sitting here tonight: What sacrifice have you ever made really [?] for souls? And will you ever [?] personal Calvary and absolutely surrender to God and be filled with God the Holy Spirit by faith to ask him? That means to be controlled [?] you are in control, total control.

[?] that is why [?].

When the great Livingstone was last seen in England as he boarded the boat at Plymouth, an American newspaper reporter ran screaming, "David Livingstone," through the

crowds that were not applauding. They didn't applaud missionaries in those days. But they were there, never to see him again. Only one white man ever saw him again in life.

When they carried his body back to be buried next to the kings of England in Westminster Abbey [?].

But this reporter cried out and Livingstone turned on the gangway and looked back. And panting and out of breath he said, "I have crossed the Atlantic from one of the greatest newspapers on earth and I have to have a report from you."

"What do you want me from me?"

"You have sacrificed life for the gospel. You have sacrificed your children, your wife, your ability, life, luxury, privilege above most men in England and the world. That could have been yours. You turned your back on that. Was it worth it?"

Livingstone it is said had [?]. When you look at what Jesus did on the cross, the sacrifice he made, young man, nothing that you can do in life could be termed sacrifice. Then take that message to the world, only privilege.

Can we stand, please?