

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 9



GOOD SOLDIERS DON'T QUIT

*Scripture Texts: 2 Timothy 2:1-5; Hebrews 12:4;
1 Peter 1:13; Luke 18:8*

We must be strong, manly, and faithful before great opposition and danger. How can we do this? Trying hard and determination is not enough. Paul, speaking of hard places in life, said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (**Philippians 4:13**). God gave much of the answer to this question when He spoke through Isaiah in **Isaiah 40:31**.

Today we look further into God's instructions for fighting the Christian warfare and for preparing to meet the most violent attacks of Satan.

MEMORY VERSE: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. — **1 Corinthians 16:13**

Be Strong

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye. Watch self to stay holy and the heart to stay true. Watch God to obey Him, others that we do our duty to them and the enemies of our souls that they do not lead us from the old paths. **Stand fast in the faith—in one spirit**, unity and love (**Philippians 1:27**); **in the Lord**, living in Him (**Philippians 4:1**); **in the faith** or belief in the gospel (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**) and in all the Word of God. **Quit you like men**. It takes brave, strong, courageous, unflinching, faithful men and women to fight victoriously in this Christian warfare. The quitters are weak, fearful, doubting, tossed to and fro like children by every wind of doctrine, and never settled on the foundation that is sure. **Be strong**—strong not in ourselves but in the Lord. Do not yield to sin in any form.

The Strength Is in Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 2:1-3 Paul wrote to his young fellow laborer Timothy, **Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus**—in the life of God imparted to him. No one can be spiritually strong except by the gift of life from Christ. **The things that thou hast heard . . . commit thou to faithful men**. Pass on the Gospel to others that they may be faithful to it. It must be spread to all people. **Endure hardness**. Satan is determined to defeat us. It takes active resistance to withstand him. It takes the power of God. We must be firm, determined to take any difficulty or suffering, and not yield. Jesus gives us a great promise in **Matthew 24:13**.

Warfare Calls for a Separation

2 Timothy 2:4-5 No man that warreth entangleth himself . . . No good soldier becomes entangled with his own interests. Every personal interest, business, or activity must be dropped to free him for fighting. Dear ones, can't we see how necessary it is that we drop every selfish interest and worldly ambition and pursuit if we are to **please him who hath chosen us**? He said he **that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple** (**Luke 14:33**).

We are to be separated FROM and TO—from self and the world, to Christ, that we may please Him. To do so we must **strive lawfully**—according to His rules. Only by obeying the Bible and the voice of the Holy Spirit can we gain the **crown of life** (**James 1:12**). When God asks us to forsake all that we have, to resist evil unto blood and with our lives, and to endure faithful unto the end, He is not asking too much. Compare what others

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ask and what they give in return. Communism demands that one surrender property, freedom, chosen pursuits, home, children, truth, hope, faith, God, and the Savior, with no reward. Tyrants press their claims by force and cruelty. God uses love and gives all things in return—**joy unspeakable and full of glory, in the life that now is and in that which is to come (1 Timothy 4:8).**

What Is Asked of Us?

Hebrews 12:4 In **Hebrews, Chapter 11**, are listed many faithful saints of God who labored, suffered, and died for their faith, **not accepting deliverance** by compromise. We sometimes speak of them as the "Who's Who of Faith." They and Jesus Himself are held up as examples to inspire and encourage us to follow. There is no limit set for the suffering we need endure before dropping our resistance to sin. Jesus stopped at nothing, but gave His life. Though we may have suffered, most of us have **not yet resisted unto blood**—not suffered physical injury or death. God will go with us making the way before us, but we must resist sin with our all (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore—because of the greatness of the salvation we are discussing—**gird up the loins of your mind**. We might compare this girding up to rolling up our sleeves to begin work. The Christian girds up his mind by drawing in all wandering, idle, foolish thoughts and concentrating upon the main purpose of serving Christ and conquering Satan, determined to win. **Be sober**—alert and serious in taking responsibility. Think seriously, take heed, and give careful attention to God's commands. Soberness is not gloom. It is depth and seriousness. **Hope to the end**—constantly keep in view with hope—**the grace**—the gift of God—**to be brought . . . at the revelation of Jesus Christ**—when Jesus is seen at His second coming. What gift will He bring His redeemed ones then? For this glorious hope we are to **gird** our minds.

Anchoring Our Position

There is a spirit prevalent today that fears sober thought. Talk about God, prayer or anything, it says, but do not get serious. Shy away from "old-fashioned" duty, responsibility, sorrow for sin, or dependence on God. Have fun today, do not think of tomorrow, avoid intense feeling or deep concern. Do not go to extremes or be fanatic. This is not right.

Luke 18:8 As the coming of Christ draws near, Satan is intensifying his efforts to destroy faith in God. He has many methods. Unbelief and blasphemy grow more extreme. Many presuming to speak for God's church voice denials of Christ and the Bible under pretense of improved interpretation. How can we anchor our position and that of our children, so as not to be shaken loose by Satan's cruel forces? We must know what we believe and where we stand. Life is real, and life is earnest. We cannot live it in lightness and escape the judgments of God (**Hebrews 2:1-3**).

A. B. Simpson tells of a painting showing a beautiful French girl and her Protestant lover on the night before the terrible massacre of St. Bartholomew. With tears she tries to pin a Catholic badge on his breast as protection from the swords of the assassins. He gently holds back her hand and unpins the badge, knowing they probably will never meet again on earth. He was quitting himself like a man. And God saw.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Faith is no lone traveler, she will not go
except hand in hand with Obedience.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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