

## Introduction

1. We are at war!
  - a. Not a fleshly war but a spiritual one ([Eph. 6:12](#); [2 Cor. 10:3-4](#)).
  - b. We have an enemy that must be resisted ([1 Pt. 5:8-9](#); [Jm. 4:4](#), [7](#)).
  - c. We have a triumphant Commander ([Heb. 2:9-15](#)).
  - d. We have our marching orders ([Col. 3:17](#)).
2. The final area we will examine in this series on “Clear Christianity” is to be free from entanglement.
  - a. Not free from conflict, suffering, or trouble ([Ac. 14:22](#)).
  - b. Free from being entangled, trapped, or snared by the devil ([1 Cor. 10:12-13](#)).

## I. War - A Time of Toil and Trouble

1. War is a time of conflict and hostility.
  - a. We cannot remain neutral ([Jm. 4:4](#); [1 Jn. 2:15-17](#)).
  - b. We cannot be on both sides ([Mt. 6:24](#)).
  - c. We must stand and fight ([Eph. 6:10-13](#)).
2. Persecution will come to the godly ([2 Tim. 3:12](#)).
  - a. Why? Because evil men and seducers are getting worse ([2 Tim. 3:13](#); cf. [1 Tim. 4:1-5](#)).

## II. A Good Soldier Endures ([2 Timothy 2:3](#))

1. The good soldier must endure hardness.
  - a. endure hardness (*kakopatheo* G2553 verb, imperative) this is a command! It is translated as “suffer trouble” ([2 Tim. 2:9](#)) and “endure afflictions” ([2 Tim. 4:5](#)).
  - b. It is possible for a soldier to desert or go AWOL due to the sufferings of war.
2. The good soldier of Jesus Christ must endure hardness.
  - a. a...soldier (*stratiotes* G4757 noun) used 26 times in the New Testament.
  - b. Hardship and suffering come with the territory in war.

### III. A Good Soldier is Focused ([2 Timothy 2:4](#))

1. To be a good soldier in the army the focus must be on the mission.
  - a. that warreth (*strateuo* G4754 verb, present) “to do military duty, be on active service, be a soldier” (Thayer 590).
  - b. entangleth himself (*empleko* G1707 verb, present) “to weave in’ (*en*, ‘in,’ *pleko*, ‘to weave’), hence, metaphorically, to be involved, entangled in” (Vine vol. 2 pp. 202-203).
  - c. The soldier’s singular concern is what is happening on the battlefield.
  - d. I must watch my step for Satan’s traps ([Eph. 5:1-18](#)).
2. The good soldier has one mission and that is to please him who has chosen him to be a soldier.
  - a. The Him is God and the choosing took place by the gospel ([2 Th. 2:13-14](#)).
  - b. I must look to the Commander who finished His mission and pleased His Father ([Jn. 8:29](#), [17:4](#), [19:30](#)).

### Conclusion

1. Let us make sure we are fighting for God and not against Him.
2. Let us never give up or surrender to Satan.
3. Let us be aware of the devil’s tactics and traps and avoid them.
4. God has given us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ ([1 Cor. 15:57](#)).