

**In the Army of Jesus Christ!**



When soldiers are in combat with others fighting beside them, they become very dependent on each other for survival and help in the battle. Before even going into battle, the soldiers are trained to obey their commander. They are trained to handle rough and tough situations together. They are trained to protect each other's back (and front, and sides). They learn to work as a unit against the enemy. They learn to trust each other, knowing that they each would give their lives for a fellow soldier. They develop a close bond. They battle together!

*Psalms 20:7-8 Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stood upright.*





We are in the army of Jesus Christ. He is our Commander! We call this army the body of Christ with Christ as our Head. What a privilege it is to be under His command. His instructions are in the Bible. His Helper, God the Holy Spirit, teaches us the instructions! God the Holy Spirit wants us to know about

all the help we have before we ever go into battle and are given commands by our Commander. The Spirit gives us the power to follow the commands and to handle rough and tough situations. He wants us to know who we are in Christ - who we are as Christ's soldiers. He wants us to know Christ, our Commander!



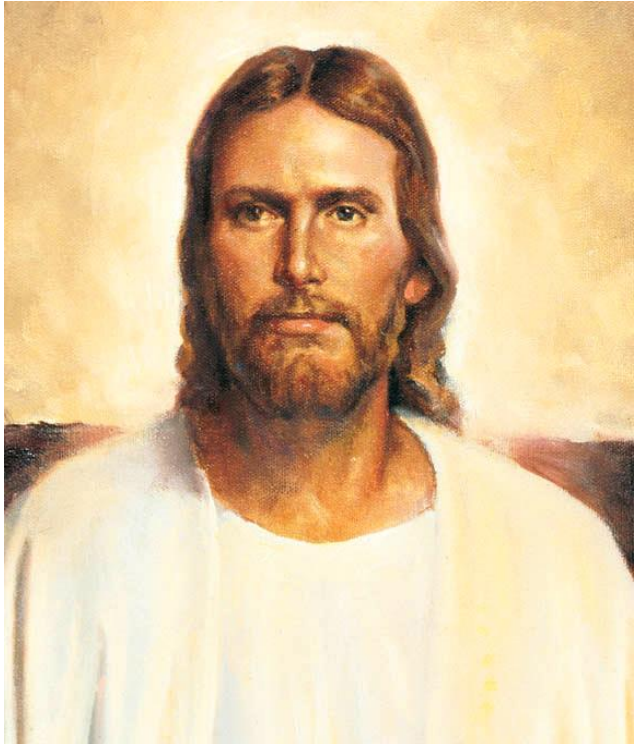
***2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any one in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.***

*Philippians 1:29 [Amplified] For you have been granted [the privilege] for Christ's sake not only to believe in (adhere to, rely on, and trust in) Him, but also to suffer in His behalf.*

To know Christ is to know His suffering. As was said before, there's a close and lasting bond a soldier builds with his fellow soldiers in battle. There's a tie that binds those who have fought the good fight together. Jesus Christ knows this and He wants us to suffer in the spiritual battles of life **with Him**. He wants us to know Him and His love for us. Look at the suffering Jesus went through and the perfect love He has! God has given us all we need to be soldiers of Christ. So, it is through His provisions and power that we have the privilege of growing in the knowledge of God's love! Our Commander leads the way.

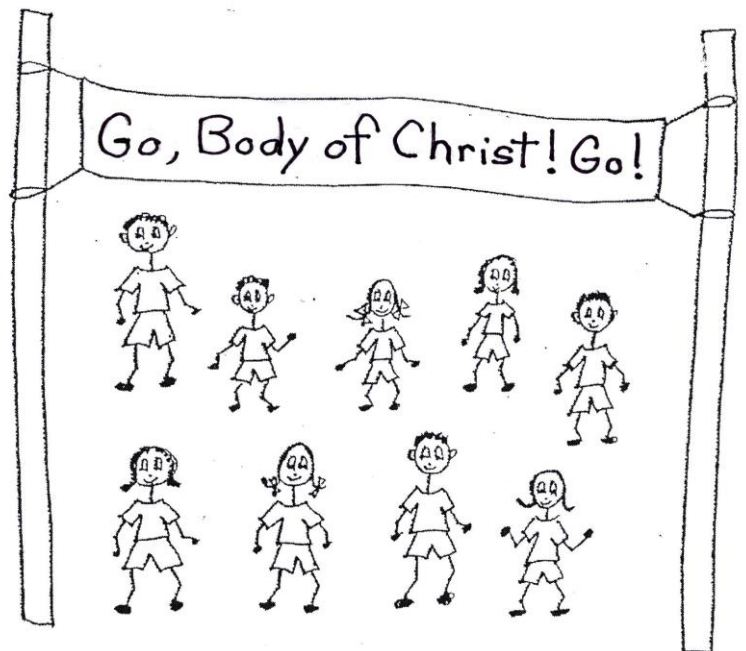
*John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*





Christ's army, the body of Christ, is made up of all believers in Him. Our purpose is to encourage each other and to bring the good news of salvation to unbelievers. We have the Holy Spirit living inside of us to give us the power to do this since we could never do it without Him. We have to be trained to carry out the mission

God has for us. That is where God the Holy Spirit helps us once again! He teaches us about the equipment we have and how to use it.



***1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.***



As believer soldiers, it is important for us to know who we are in Christ. What does it mean to be **in Jesus Christ**? It means we share the spiritual things that are His in His humanity. **In Christ**, we find our new life, the same perfect, indestructible life that He possesses. That is how God the Father sees us! It

is important for us to see how secure we are in that place! God declares us righteous because of Jesus' work on the cross! Our life **in Christ** cannot be touched by **any** question of sin, death, the judgment of God, or the power of Satan. We are safe **in Christ**! We are free to learn how to be soldiers in the army of Christ.



***Romans 3:23-24; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus:***

Because of our Commander's death and resurrection, we have eternal life **in Him!** We know where one day we will be - in heaven with Jesus! That's a wondrous fact! *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

When we are being put down and treated meanly, we can look to see who we are **in Jesus** and be built up by His care for us. God never condemns us!

*Romans 8:1  
Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

When we grow tired of all the hatred that's in the world, we can look to the love of God.

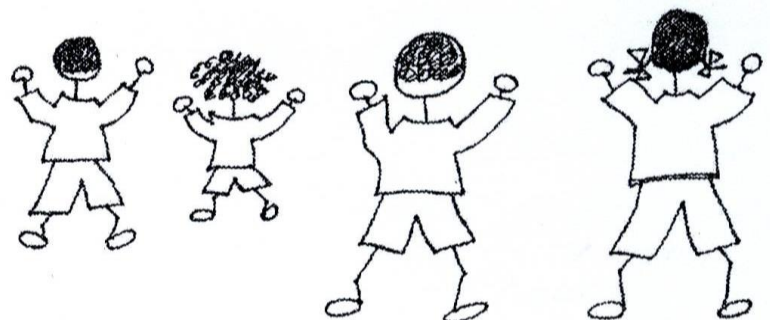
*1 John 4:9-10 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*



God has put us in a new place - **in Christ Jesus** - the greatest place in the universe! Satan wants us to question the goodness of God even though we have such fantastic blessings from God! It would be absurd for **believers in Christ** to question the goodness of God. Satan wants us to use our wills to be independent of God; he wants us to walk in sight, not in faith; he wants us to have our eyes on the world, on our sins, on other people, and on our situations. That would make us miserable! It would not be good training for battle in the army of Christ! We would not be focusing on **Jesus Christ!**



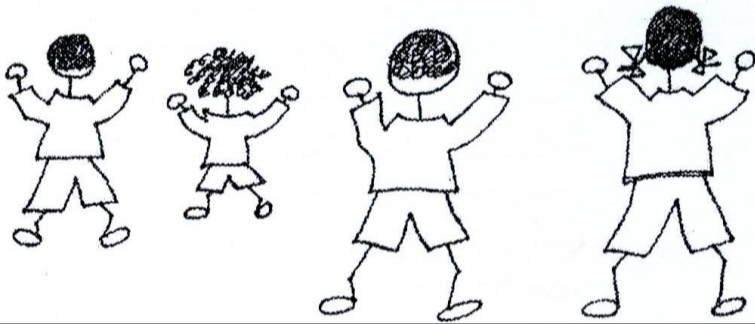
*Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation [no adverse sentence and no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus.*







We have to keep believing the wonders of being **in Christ** and depend on God! We are to remember that Jesus Christ is our loving Commander! He lives right inside of us! That will make us content! We are to enjoy who we are **in Christ**; we have been adopted as sons and daughters of God! Living in the grace of God now, we have hope for the future.



*Joshua 1:9 " ...Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*



We can picture our Commander seated at the right hand of God the Father. We know that the battle has already been won by Jesus Christ, our Commander! He wants us, His royal family, to experience the spiritual battles while on earth so we can grow in His love. Since we are in battle together, the Holy Spirit will teach us how

to take care of each other on the battle field. The Holy Spirit can make us into good soldiers for Christ!



***Colossians 3:1-2 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.***

In our new position **in Christ Jesus**, we are to be trained in the spiritual life before we are expected to be in the battle with Him, our Commander. We are to learn how the Holy Spirit is protecting and growing us. God the Holy Spirit has already done some marvelous things to prepare us for battle in the Lord's army. When we enlisted in Jesus Christ's army, when we became believers, we already know that we were put **in Christ**. Here are **some** other things that the Holy Spirit did for us:

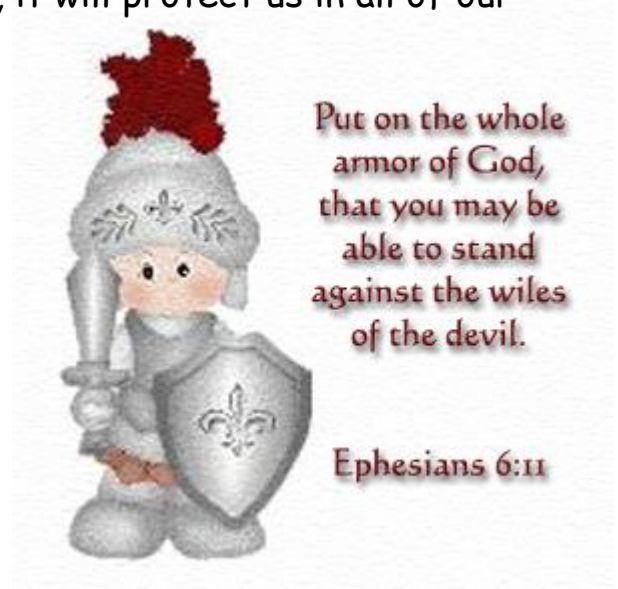
- He regenerated us - we were born again by the Spirit. **John 3:6**
- He is the Spirit of Life. **John 6:63-64**
- The indwelling Spirit is rivers of living water. **John 7:37-39**
- He is our Helper, and the Spirit of truth (enables us to know the truth). **John 14:16-17**
- The Holy Spirit teaches us all things, reminding us of Christ's teachings. **John 14:26**
- The Spirit has poured the love of God into our hearts as a permanent blessing. **Romans 5:5**
- He is the agent of Life in Christ Jesus, the new governing power that prevailed over old one, sin and death. **Romans 8:2**
- The Spirit intercedes for us in prayer. **Romans 8:26-27**

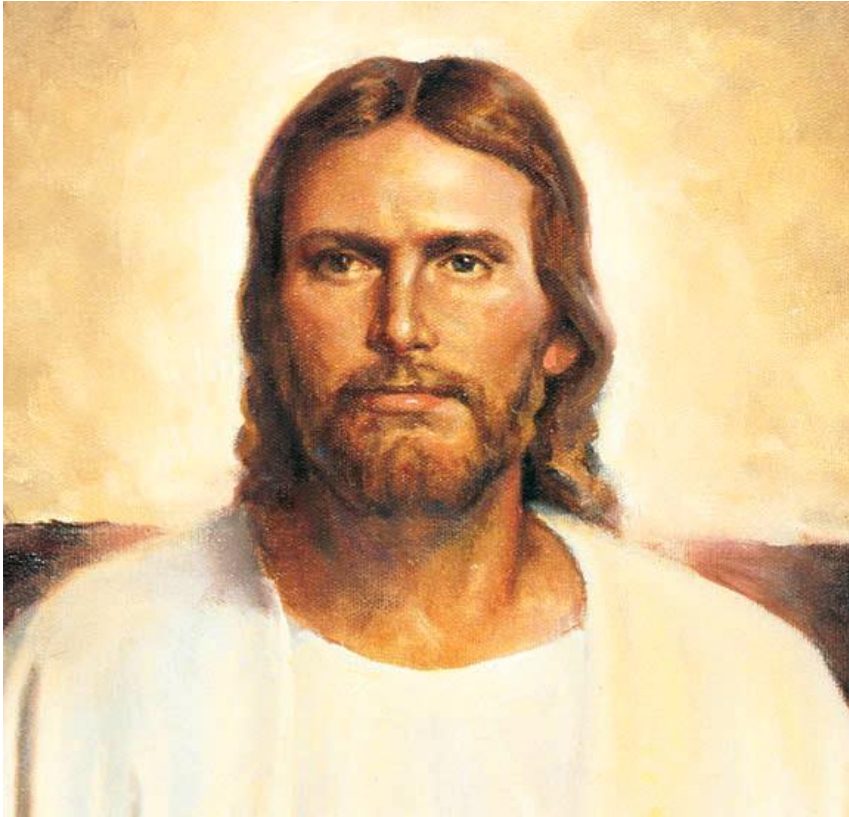




Since God the Holy Spirit has done all of these things for us, plus many more, He has us ready to be trained for the Lord's army! He will teach us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ - put on the thinking of our Commander. ***Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ [His mind], and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*** In other words, He will teach us about and give us the power to put on the armor of God!

- The Belt of Truth: Christ is the truth, the light and the way to the Father.
- The Breastplate of Righteousness: Because of Christ's work on the Cross, God the Father declared us righteous.
- The Boots of the Gospel of Peace: Christ is the only one who can bring peace into our lives. Wherever we go we can spread the Gospel of Peace either by our example or by telling others about Christ.
- The Shield of Faith: We place our faith in Jesus Christ. This faith protects us from all the flaming arrows of Satan and the demons.
- The Helmet of Salvation: Christ is our salvation, eternal security which protects the soul.
- The Sword of Truth: God's Word is truth and is the thinking of Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, it will protect us in all of our battles.





As believer soldiers in the army of Christ, we have been given everything to win the spiritual battles on earth. We have been placed by God the Holy Spirit **in Christ**, our Commander; we share everything He has in His humanity. And, our Commander abides inside of us! They Holy Spirit has made it possible for us to be secure in our battles. We

have been given the armor of God to protect us. Nothing can harm us! Our job is to keep our focus on **our Commander, Jesus Christ.**



*Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.*



We are completely dependent on our Commander, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are on the battlefield with His soldiers, the body of Christ. As soldiers in Christ, we can count on each other for help and encouragement in our spiritual battles. Before even going into battle, we are trained by God the Holy Spirit. He trains us to obey our Commander. He trains us to

handle rough and tough situations together, through our Commander's thinking in the Bible. We are trained to protect each other. We learn to work as a unit against the enemy. We learn to trust each other, knowing that we would give our lives to save one another. We develop a close bond. We battle together in the Lord's army! This is all done through the power of God the Holy Spirit! **Jesus Christ, our Commander**, is always watching out for us! We are His soldiers!



Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11

*Chronicles 20:15 And he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.*