

ACTIVE-DUTY CHRISTIANITY

I Peter 5:8-9

Because a battle for our soul rages we are called to be soldiers of Christ on active duty.

An active-duty Christian must

I. KNOW THEIR ENEMY (8)

- Know the enemies characteristics

A. YOUR ADVERSARY

1. He will seriously and aggressively target you
 - He'll use his unbelieving army to aid him in this - See I Peter 4:4 & 14
2. He is absolutely hostile to you
 - A legal opponent who seeks to throw the book at you - Rev. 12:9-11

B. THE DEVIL ("Diabolos" - diabolical one)

1. A Deceiver
 - a. The father of lies - John 8:44
 - b. Able to appear as an angel of light - II Cor. 11:13-15
2. A Slanderer or accuser - See Job 1:9-11 and 2:2-5 along with Zech 3:1-5
 - He will seek to trouble you with doubts or remind you of your failures

C. A LION

1. Prowling around
 - a. Behind the scenes the wily devil lurks - Eph. 6:11
 - b. He's watching for an opportunity to take advantage of the unsuspecting believer
2. Roaring: Seeking to intimidate with paralyzing fear

D. A DEVOURER

1. He is not in this for the chase
2. The purpose of his pursuit is to destroy you

An active-duty Christian must

II. KNOW THEIR ORDERS (8-9)

- Following battle commands

A. BE SOBER: Always ready to respond (8a)

1. Be clear-headed - Don't think that the enemy has become less hostile
2. Sound in mind - See 1:13 and II Cor. 10:3-5
3. Serious in prayer - See 4:17
4. No intoxication with worldly allurements - I John 2:15-17

Over please >

B. BE ALERT: Watchful (8b)

1. Wake up! - Rom. 13:11-14 and I Thess. 5:6-8
2. Keep your guard up
3. Be discerning - I John 4:1

C. BE RESISTING: Not a willing captive that quickly concedes (9a)

1. Refuse to yield - James 4:17
2. Fearlessly stand up to Satan - James 4:7
3. You can resist ... it is never a hopeless situation - I Cor. 10:13
4. Resist with God's Word, as Jesus did - Matt. 4:1-11

D. BE FIRM: Steadfast in the faith (9b)

1. A God reliance - See Isaiah 50:7
2. Facing the enemy in the name of God - I Samuel 17:45-46a
3. Not giving ground - See Dan. 3:14-18 and Acts 4:18-20
4. Earnestly contend for the faith - Jude 3-4
5. Note that it was here that Peter had earlier failed most miserably
- See Matthew 26:36-75

E. BE INSPIRED: Knowing there are others (9c)

1. Others are successfully suffering and being victorious - Note Malachi 3:16
2. You are not alone - No Elijah complex allowed [I'm the only one ... no you're not!]
3. You hold the line where you are, as others hold the line where they are

CONCLUSION:**How many Christian casualties do you know?****Will you be a casualty?**

- Will you be careful
- Will you be engaged in the battle
- Will you give yourself to a lifetime of active duty with no retirement plan?

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. - Ephesians 6:10-12

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