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Wednesday, May 27, 2026

WOW – Word on Wednesday

A Good Soldier of God in Christ

Ephesians 6:11

Intro: There is a great deal of discussion now about peace around the world. At the same time, there is increased strife and fighting in our own country. But the biggest war in the world is being waged a few are talking about it. You will not find it in the news, or trending social media, but it's very real. It is a battle between light and darkness and it's intensifying at this very moment. It's not a political, military, economic, philosophical, radical or social conflict. It's spiritual! The enemy is angry and the conflict is as fierce as it has ever been. Satan is on the attack and so should we be- it's time for the Christian Soldier to take a stand against Satan.

What does it mean to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ? This is more than a church member or casual Christianity. A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ:

I. Needs to Know There is a War Going On:

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| a. The Christian life isn't a passive walk in the park. | Matthew 7:13-14 |
| b. Awareness of the frontlines, the struggle is real, the goal is to "endure hardship as a good soldier". | James 1:2-4
John 16:33 |
| c. Too many soldiers are sleeping on the front lines. | Ephesians 5:14 |

II. Needs to Enlist on the Right Side:

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| a. Make a declaration of your spiritual commitment.
(Repentance is the start of our spiritual journey.) | Matthew 16:24 |
| b. Make a determination not to be distracted from your duties. | Luke 9:23 |
| c. Following God is a lifetime enlistment, no terminating early. | Luke 9:62 |
| d. A soldier enlisting in God's army will be broken before the benefits. | |

III. Needs to be Obedient to the Captain:

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| a. Being obedient Christians isn't about following a rigid set of rules, but it's an active, ongoing response to love and trust God. | 1 Samuel 15:22 |
| b. We must cultivate a posture of surrender, be ready to say yes! | Luke 6:46 |
| c. You cannot obey what you don't know. To know Him is to follow Him. | Matthew 7:21 |

IV. Needs Alertness to Spiritual Danger:

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| a. We must guard our hearts and mind. | Colossians 4:2 |
| b. Spiritual drifting often starts slowly rather than all at once.
- Filter your content – take thoughts captive! | 1 Corinthians 16:13 |
| c. Watch for subtle warning signs: spiritual danger rarely announces itself with obvious red flags. Be alert! Be alert! | 1 Peter 5:8 |

V. Needs Training From Seasoned Soldiers:

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| a. Seasoned saints are uniquely called to disciple and teach other saints. | |
| b. We model character that's impactful. The most impactful teaching is often "caught" rather than "taught". | Titus 2:3-8
Psalm 71:18 |
| c. Paul emphasized being an example of sound words, integrity, and steadfast love in both behavior and works. | Hebrews 6:10 |

VI. Needs to Tear Down Every Enemy Stronghold in their Life

- a. Identify the root lies: strongholds rarely begin with behavior. They usually start as false beliefs or emotional wounds. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
- b. We must identify destructive lies and replace them with truth. 2 Samuel 22:2-3
- c. We must actively rely on our spiritual practices to change old behaviors. Psalm 27:1

VII. Needs Weapons for the War

- a. God's divine power and His knowledge – God has already given us everything we need for life and godliness. 2 Peter 1:3
 - 1. **Belt of Truth** – anchoring your life in God's truth to guard against deception.
 - 2. **Breastplate of Righteousness** – Guarding your heart and maintaining moral integrity.
 - 3. **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace** – Standing firm in the peace and foundation that the Gospel provides.
 - 4. **Shield of Faith** – Used to extinguish the “flaming arrows” of doubt, fear, and temptation.
 - 5. **Helmet of Salvation** – Protecting your mind and thoughts with the assurance of your salvation.
 - 6. **Sword of the Spirit** (*The Word of God*) – Our primary offensive weapon and can combat lies, lust and overcome temptation.