

You're in the Army Now!

For your Creator will be your husband;
the **Lord of Heaven's Armies is his name!**
He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,
the God of all the earth. (*Isaiah 54:5 NLT*)

Your people will volunteer on your day of battle. (*Psalms 110:3 CSB*)

It's funny—no coincidence I am sure, that in Paige's sermon on repentance Sunday she pointed out the word **worthy**, and in my various scripture readings this week the same word had stood out to me. I looked it up on biblehub.com. It is Strong's G514 *axios*, its meaning:

1. (properly) of similar weight or value
2. (comparatively) worthy, deserving (of good or bad)
3. (by implication) suitable, fitting, appropriate (as if drawing praise).

One of the verses I was studying was Matthew 10:8: **And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** Do we have weight or value before God? Are we deserving of His blessings? Is His honor appropriate for us? If we are truly in Christ, the answer to all of these is, "Yes!"

Your people will volunteer on your day of battle.

What is it to volunteer? Cathy Foster would call it "being available." If you are a volunteer, you willingly agree to serve, complete a task, or work without pay. Sometimes we volunteer without knowing what we are getting ourselves into. In God's army He Has the plan and the means to accomplish His objectives. In America's military, volunteers choose to serve, receive some pay; they also receive (hopefully, most of the time) what they need to complete their assignments—training, equipment, weaponry, clothing, care for their health, etc., and in the end valuable experience and some benefits.

Again, **Your people will volunteer on your day of battle.** I am not going to talk much about the enemy or his tactics and schemes, or even about our spiritual weapons as this has been well-taught by our leaders at NUMA. My focus is on being a worthy combatant that reflects well on the Lord.

I don't think many of us would deny that as Christians we are in battles almost constantly. We are under attack. The Lord of Heaven's Armies does give us times of R&R. We are on the defensive, but we need also to be building, not just being about defense. **Let the exaltation of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands,...** This is exactly how those rebuilding the ancient city walls of Jerusalem worked as written in Nehemiah chapter four. They never let their guard down, but they continued to build. **The officers supported all the people of Judah, who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other.** (*From verses 17-18 CSB*) They stayed prepared, "even when washing," the chapter says,



And I, my brothers, my servants, and the men of the guard with me never took off our clothes. Each carried his weapon, even when washing. (Nehemiah 4:23 CSB)

About the clothes I was thinking this morning about how what we wear can affect our personalities. I studied Latin very briefly in high school. One of the phrases I learned was “*vestis virum facit*” meaning “*clothes make the man.*” I was never in the military, but I did put on clothing according to differing occupations that I held throughout life. I remember dressing nurse-like when I did some nursing assistant work. I remember also wearing uniforms that represented the training and authority given me as a correctional officer for the state. The Lord gives us authority, but also the training that is necessary to properly and proudly represent Him in this world. We have seen people, even politicians, who claim they have served in the military when they haven’t. They want the honor that they did not earn and do not deserve. They are not worthy. Christ is our covering. Are we worthy?

I rejoice greatly in the Lord, I exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness....
(From Isaiah 61:10 CSB)

For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.
(Galatians 3:27 CSB)

Some appreciate their uniform. Some have blatant disregard for what it represents. Some are corrupt and misrepresent what their uniform should stand for. Some Christians have compromised the One who covers them, misrepresenting the Holy One and His name, nature and authority. Salvation and righteousness are our covering in Jesus. This is the life that we must live if Jesus is to be seen in the world. Who admires a corrupt cop or government official? What those in an organization do reflects on the organization itself. A compromised church will not affect its culture meaningfully for the Lord, or bring honor to the name we claim. We have to give them the real Jesus.

I quoted this verse earlier, but I think the Amplified expresses best what the worthiness Jesus talked about was in more completeness. **And he who does not take his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] is not worthy of Me.**
(Matthew 10:8 AMP)

Proverbs 24:10-11 CSB **If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited. Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter.** “Go into all the world....”
This what the objective is for today’s army.

And the honor given to the future army: **Let the exaltation of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, inflicting vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, binding their kings with chains and their dignitaries with iron shackles, carrying out the judgment decreed against them. This honor is for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!**
(Psalm 149:6-9 CSB)