

## Lord of the Rings: Fit for Service

📖 John 15:13 (NLT) “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

### Inspire your soldier(s) to [carry on in your absence](#).

📖 2 Timothy 2:1–2 (NIV) “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

📖 1 Timothy 1:12 (NIV) “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service.”

📖 2 Timothy 4:17 (NIV) “...the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth.”

📖 Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) “...be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”

📖 Philippians 4:13 (NIV) “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”

### Encourage your soldier(s) to [endure difficulty and stay close](#).

📖 2 Timothy 2:3 (NIV) “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

📖 1 Timothy 6:12–14 (NLT) “Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup> that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.”

1. A good soldier learns the strategy of the **enemy**. (2 Cor. 2:11)

2. A good soldier obtains skill in **weaponry**. (Eph. 6:10-18)

3. A good soldier values the strength of **comradery**. (Heb. 10:25)

📖 Hebrews 11:36–38a (NIV) “Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them.”

### Remind your soldier(s) to [avoid distractions and stay loyal](#).

📖 2 Timothy 2:4 (NIV) “No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.”

📖 Philemon 23–24 (NIV) “Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. <sup>24</sup> And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.”

📖 2 Timothy 4:9–10a (NIV) “Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.”

**Digging Deeper:** This weekend, let’s stop and appreciate the American soldiers that never made it home. After we have honored those American heroes, let’s also appreciate the Christian soldiers that have gone before us. Let’s thank God for the men and women that God put in our life to guide and direct us. Let’s also be mindful of the soldiers that are following after us. In what ways is our life inspiring them? Are we enduring difficulty well? Are we fighting instead of quitting? Are we present rather than absent? Is our life pleasing our Commanding officer, the Lord Jesus Christ? –If not, are we willing to repent and return to active duty again?