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Military Life and Faith

Follow Christ

The Military and your Faith require that you follow before you can lead.

Describe the kind of person you would follow into battle.

Why would you be willing to follow such a person?



The U.S. Military requires you to say an oath upon entering its service. It states,

“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

Millions of men and women have made an allegiance to follow the leadership of the military to accomplish its purposes throughout the world.

Jesus is asking us to follow Him so that He can complete His purposes in you and in the world. What do you think it means to follow Jesus?

We have been studying three statements in one passage. We now come to the third and last statement, “Follow Me.” It comes in a logical progression. Jesus tells us that if we are to be His disciple, we must first deny ourselves as the focus and authority of our own life, then we must die to ourselves and allow Christ to live through us, and finally we are to **follow him** with complete allegiance.

I. Follow Jesus with complete allegiance.

Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and **follow Me.**”

The words “follow me” come from the military term for “fall in.”

How often do you hear someone yell, “Fall in!”? How do you respond?

Fall In!



Let’s look at some verses where this word is used so that we can determine what Jesus is asking of us when He says, “Follow Me.”

Verse	Principle	How am I following?
Matthew 4:18–20; 9:9	Responding immediately to His commands.	
Luke 5:11, 27–28	Leaving all personal interests behind.	
John 8:12	Living out truth (light).	
Matthew 19:21;27–30 Luke 18:22	Living for eternal rewards.	
John 21:19–22	Trusting Jesus in spite of our circumstances.	

Give three reasons why you are motivated to follow Jesus.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What barriers face us that keep us from following Jesus?

II. Overcome barriers to following Jesus.

What keeps us from following Christ? Our own self-interests. Luke 9:57-62 describes three men who could not follow Christ. Let's look at the reasons they would not follow Christ and evaluate whether these are issues for us.

A. Comforts of Life.

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

What comforts are you giving up to be in the military?

Are there any comforts that you hesitate to give up to follow Jesus?

B. Cares of Life.

He said to another man, "Follow me."

But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

If this man could wait until His father died to follow Jesus, he would have his inheritance. He could follow Jesus without having to worry about money.

What are you afraid of living without if you follow Jesus?

B. Relationships of Life.

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family."

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

What will others say if you follow Christ completely? Will your parents think you are wasting your time and energy? Will your friends make fun of you?

Why will you follow Christ despite what others say?

Remember Lesson #1 - Love Jesus First



III. Follow other Christians.

The Bible also tells us to follow other Christians who are experienced at following Jesus.

A. Other Christians' Example: Philippians 3:17

*"Join with others in **following** my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."*

B. Other Christians' Discipline: 2 Thessalonians 3:7

*"For you yourselves know how you ought to **follow** our example. We were not idle when we were with you."*

C. Other Christians' Faith: Hebrews 13:7

*"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and **imitate (follow)** their faith."*

Who do you know in military that walks with Christ? How can you learn from them?

The Bible also tells us that we are to follow Biblical Principles.

This Week - Continue to establish a regular time studying the Bible by looking looking at the following passages.

IV. Follow Biblical Principles.

What do the following verses say we should "follow?"

<i>2 Timothy 3:16-17</i>	Day 1 Romans 14:19	Day 2 1 Thess. 5:15	Day 3 2 Tim. 2:2	Day 4 Hebrews 12:14
Teaching What is the Subject?				
Rebuke What is wrong with my attitude or action?				
Correct How do I correct my wrong attitude or action?				
Instruction What will this look like in my life?				