**Muddling through Difficult Times**

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**

***Aim: striving to know and to do the will of God, regardless of circumstances.***

When we first come to Christ, we are often like that soldier who enlisted into the army.

 Timothy was so excited. He knew he was fighting an important war. He was thrilled at the thought of serving his country. He treated everyone he met and attacked every task he was assigned with enthusiasm. When other soldiers tried to annoy him, he ignored them. He knew his enemy would love to get him discouraged and quit. But Timothy was a Soldier with a Mission.He knew why he was there, and whom he was serving.

 As time went by, Timothy gradually lost sight of the big picture. He got caught up in just making it from day to day. He began allowing other soldiers’ comments to irritate him, and he became critical of others.

 One day, another soldier was struggling with a lack of enthusiasm and was seeking Timothy’s advice. Timothy tried to help, but his words sounded hollow. That conversation slowly, but surely reminded him of why he enlisted in the first place. He had muddled through a difficult time and once again, he was a Soldier with a Mission.

 We have passion and unwavering faith. We are thrilled at the thought of serving the one who has saved our life. Our enthusiasm bubble over into everything we do and to everyone we meet. We know we are loved and have the promise of a new kingdom with Christ. We are ***Soldiers with a Mission***.

 As time goes by, we gradually lose sight of the big picture. We get caught up in just making it from day to day. We begin allowing others’ comments to irritate us, and we become critical of others. ***We are no longer soldiers with a mission.***

 Then one day, we may encounter someone who is questioning their faith and seeking advice.

We try to help, but the words sound hollow. But, that encounter reminds us of the big picture.

We realize God is steering us back onto the right path, and slowly, but surely we remember why we are here, whom we are serving and where we are working to go. We have ***muddled through*** ***a difficult time*** and once again, we can resume being ***Soldiers with a Mission.***

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