



STEELED FOR ACTION

WITH PASTOR ERIC LUDY

THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE!

We are a family of believers that cling tightly to the Word of Scripture and enjoy the heritage of a faith centered upon the majesty of Jesus Christ and His work upon the Cross. If you love the words of Scripture, worship Jesus Christ, and prefer Truth spoken with thunderous straightforwardness, then you will probably enjoy it here.

Discover why we focus so much on the centrality of Jesus Christ and learn more about the Church at Ellerslie, our Ellerslie Discipleship Training, and what we believe ... at [Ellerslie.com/church](https://www.ellerslie.com/church) or scan the QR code below with your phone.



ANNOUNCEMENTS + SCHEDULE:

- **Daily Thunder** – join us in the chapel M-F at 8:15am for teaching, prayer, and worship
- **Wednesday Night Prayer** – 7:00pm

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR:

- Weeklong students: August 7-13
- Cambridge 70 Event (for men): August 26-28

STEELED FOR ACTION

UNDERSTANDING SUPERNATURAL RESOLUTION

TO STEEL (VERB)

- *to fit with steel, as by pointing, edging, or overlaying.*
- *to cause to resemble steel in some way.*
- *to render inflexible, unyielding, determined (He steeled himself to perform the dangerous task)*

Dictionary.com

THE DANGEROUS TASK

- *the difficult task*
- *the unpleasant task*
- *the awkward task*
- *the risky task*
- *the painful task*
- *the challenging task*

ALWAYS BE READY NIGHT

the paralyzing challenge

THE DOUBLE BACK HANDSPRING ON BEAM

Don't cry! I hate crying!

KAKOPATHEŌ

to endure hardness, walk through challenge, face crisis, carry difficulty

. . . kakopatheō, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

HOW DOES A GOOD SOLDIER FUNCTION?

a short list of "good soldier" actions during hardness

- *smile at difficulty*
- *embrace challenge*

- *laugh at impossibilities*
- *sing amidst the falling artillery shells*
- *sleep in the mud hole like a prince in his royal bed*

MY “SOLDIER” DREAM

Three years ago I had a funny dream. In my dream I decided that I wanted to join the army. However, before I could join, I had to first ensure that my work with the army would still allow me to fulfill my commitments here at Ellerslie. So, as the dream unfolded, I showed up at an army recruitment desk. I mentioned to the officer sitting behind the desk that I would like to join the army but that I already had other commitments. I explained these other commitments and he seemed very excited to have me join and said that we could certainly make it work. In the dream I thought to myself, “I bet they are desperate for strong leaders like me.” So, from there I was invited into a big courtyard where eighty men were waiting. Almost immediately upon my arrival into the courtyard, an officer stood up in front of everyone and began talking. He mentioned the various places the eighty recruits surrounding him were from. I guessed that he may have heard about my special circumstances and my willingness to serve in the army and, as a result, he might happen to mention it to the other men as a good example. But, to my chagrin, he never brought it up. Then he started saying “army” things, and some of the men were expectant for this and were instant and vigorous in their responses. They seemed to know what he was doing and eagerly participated in his banter. They raised their hands at times that I wouldn’t even think of raising my hand. (ie - the officer said jokingly, “I’m assuming you all are Christians” - to me this was a joke - but there was a whole group that immediately raised their hands and kept them up, declaring that they were Christians. After a few seconds, I felt awkward that my hand wasn’t up, so I raised it half-heartedly to indicate that yes I was one too). Then the officer asked, somewhat muffled and cryptically, for some of the men to go with him to do something undefined. Ten men sprinted to him. I wasn’t even considering going. After all, I didn’t understand his muffled request. Then the officer simply said, “More!” So others around me started moving, and I found myself moving too. Now I was a part of this smaller group. The officer said something, and I kind of nodded my understanding, but the guy next to me belted out “Sir, Yes Sir!” I remember thinking that it seemed a bit overdone to be yelling that, seeing as how we had just started, and we hadn’t even been asked to say that yet. In other words, my pride was struck. I came in

thinking I was kind of special, and, to my humiliation, all these punk kids were outshining me right off. And so I found myself justifying why such givenness and readiness was unnecessary in this situation. Next, the officer, laid on the ground. Without explanation. The group fell to the ground and did as he did. I was thinking "how juvenile." But I did it - realizing that all my college presidenting and my church pastoring had not quite prepared me for this exercise in humility and lowly mimicking.

THE "GOOD SOLDIER" IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

2 Samuel 11:8-11

THE "GOOD SOLDIER" MENTALITY

Outskirts of Baltimore:

My Dear William,

I can now march 20 and 25 miles a day, live on short rations of hard tack, raw rancid bacon, green roasting ears, and cold water - sleep out in the rain having no more than an army coat over me and enjoy myself capitally.

Edward Hastings Ripley

Union soldier, 1861

HOW DOES A GOOD SOLDIER FUNCTION?

- *stand fast (2 Thes 2:15)*
- *hold fast (Heb 3:6)*
- *stand firm (Eph 6:14)*
- *be brave (1 Cor 16:13)*
- *be bold (Eph 3:12)*

- *be courageous (Joshua 1:7)*
- *don't shrink back (Heb 10:39)*
- *don't grow weary (Gal 6:9)*
- *keep going (2 Thes 3:13)*
- *keep moving (Heb 12:13)*
- *persevere (Rev 3:10)*
- *endure (2 Tim 2:12)*
- *rejoice (Phil 4:4)*
- *leap for joy – give a fist pump of joy (Luke 6:23)*

THE WORLD WAR II SOLDIER

Military discipline is that mental attitude and state of training which **renders obedience instinctive under all conditions.** It is founded upon respect for and loyalty to properly constituted authority. While it is developed primarily by military drill, every feature of military life has its effects on military discipline. It is generally indicated in an individual or unit by smartness of appearance and action; by cleanliness and neatness of dress, equipment, or quarters; by respect for seniors; **and by prompt and cheerful execution by subordinates of both the letter and the spirit of legal orders of their lawful superiors.**

Army Regulation 600-10

Posted, the 2nd of June, 1942

THE SUPERNATURAL “YES”

a “yes” not given out of human power, but out of faith, total dependence, and trust in God’s ability to save

THE “YES” – THE GIVING UP OF MY TUITION

THE SUPERNATURAL “NO”

a “no” not given out of human power, but out of faith, total dependence, and trust in God’s ability to save

THE “NO” – THE GIVING UP OF THE HUMAN SOLUTION

ANDRIZOMAI

the ready “yes” for difficult tasks / the ready “no” toward any bait of compromise

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men (**andrizomai**), be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

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resolute and strong to move into difficulty or stand against the barrage of compromise

. . . stand fast in the Lord . . .

Philippians 4:1

For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:8

. . . everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seems Him good.

2 Samuel 10:12

. . . endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

AGREEING NOW TO THE UNCOMFORTABLE

- *agreeing now to the awkward*
- *agreeing now to the difficult*
- *agreeing now to the painful*
- *agreeing now to the risky*
- *agreeing now to the unpleasant*

THE LINE OF AGREEMENT

on one side is human power, on the other side grace

YES, I'LL DO IT!

agreeing to carry an impossible weight because that's when God's grace unfurls

- *Remember David*
- *Remember Jashobeam*
- *Remember Benaiah*

REMEMBER JESUS

PARTICIPATORY CHURCH

DAILY THUNDER

Teaching series from the Bible with Eric, Nathan, and guests.



GIVE

Donate to the ministry of Ellerslie.



EVENTS

Learn more about our upcoming events.

