

# CALLING THE COURAGEOUS...

We do not encounter Christ with cowardice and shame but in the light and hope of being renewed into the image of God. John Wesley and William Booth encouraged their people to pour over self-examination questions. The pure and blameless life is not one without error, ignorance or fault. Rather the Christian life is a continual trajectory to experience the love and grace of Christ.

The necessary means of grace in pursuit of holiness is drawn into our soldier's covenant: "I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit's work and obedient to His leading in my life, growing in grace through worship, prayer, service and the reading of the Bible. I will make the values of the Kingdom of God and not the values of the world the standard for my life."

By daily setting time for spiritual disciplines soldiers will be held up in the light of Christ. It is in this humble position that we realize our dependence upon his grace and our fellow soldiers.

Wesley was sure that salvation worked beyond the individual. He emphasized the communal nature of this journey...

Where is the place for this in our corps meetings and discipleship programs? After our personal reflection do we have a "holy club" like Wesley, with fellow soldiers who can encourage and pray for us...? Proper Christian living incorporates the whole person.

\*taken from Jonathan Evan, "Crack Pots: Give Us Sincere Hearts" in Stephen Court & Joe Noland, eds. *TSUNAMI OF THE SPIRIT: Come roll over me*. Crest Books: 2014. Used with permission.

How do you hear God's Spirit  
CALLING THE COURAGEOUS... to  
make a full surrender?

to make a full surrender.

"MAY WE EVEN MORE DARE FOR YOU"

Canada & Bermuda Territorial Soldiership Campaign



Read:

Isaiah 40:26-31; Luke 9:18-25;

Romans 12:1-21

Read:

*The Salvation Army Soldier's Covenant*

Consider:

*In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to relinquish control?*

*How can you better trust God in this?*

*What would this area of life look like, completely surrendered to Him?*

*How might making a full surrender to God transform you? ...your interaction with others? ...areas of stress in your life?*

*... opportunities that lie ahead?*

*What does a living sacrifice look like to you?*

Pray:

*I entrust my ways to You, LORD.*

*I trust You, and know You will act on behalf of my greatest good.*

*You alone will make my righteousness shine like a light, and just cause like the noontday sun.*

*I surrender myself to You, LORD, and wait patiently for you.*

based on Psalm 37:5-7

*Lord, my will  
I here present Thee  
Gladly, now no longer mine;  
Let no evil thing prevent me  
Blending it with Thine.  
Lord, my life  
I lay before Thee:  
Hear this hour  
the sacred vow;  
All Thine own I now restore  
Thee, Thine forever now.*



## CALLING THE COURAGEOUS...to make a full surrender

The Salvation Army *ORDERS AND REGULATIONS FOR SOLDIERS*, (1950 edition) provided questions for self-examination, encouraging soldiers to examine their lives in accordance with the covenant they had entered, and in living a Jesus-honouring, missional lifestyle. As you read the following questions, taken from Chapter 3, Section 4 of that publication, consider how you, as a Salvation Soldier might answer and respond to them in your own life. It is indeed a courageous call to make a full surrender:

1. **Am I habitually guilty of any known sin?**  
*Do I practise or allow myself in any thought, word, or deed which I know to be wrong?*
2. **Am I so the master of my bodily appetites as to have no condemnation?**  
*Do I allow myself in any indulgence that is injurious to my holiness, growth in knowledge, obedience, and usefulness?*
3. **Are my thoughts and feelings such that I should not be ashamed to hear them published before God?**
4. **Does the influence of the world cause me to act, feel, or say things that are unlike Christ?**
5. **Do my tempers cause me to act, or feel or say things that I see afterward are contrary to that love which I ought to bear always to those about me?**
6. **Am I doing all in my power for the salvation of sinners?**  
*Do I feel concern about their danger and pray and work for their salvation as if they were my children?*
7. **Am I fulfilling the vows I have made to God in my acts of consecration or at the Penitent Form?**
8. **Is my example in harmony with my profession?**
9. **Am I conscious of any pride or haughtiness in my manner or bearing?**
10. **Do I conform to the fashions and customs of this world or do I show that I despise them?**
11. **Am I in danger of being carried away with worldly desires to be rich or admired?**

As you take time to ask yourself the questions above, also find one or two others with whom you can regularly check in with, encouraging growth in each other. Allow this to be a relationship that supports and challenges you, as you seek with "full determination, by God's help, to be a true soldier of The Salvation Army."

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