



### THREE GREAT EXAMPLES TO CONSIDER – 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-7

Paul's last recorded letter to Timothy contains some of the most important directives any pastor or believer can receive. After giving instructions to multiply (verse 2), the apostle details three valuable illustrations to help us \_\_\_\_\_ the requirements necessary for a successful work. When a pastor, a saint, or a local church purposes their activities toward multiplication, the work will be demanding and time consuming. Therefore, these examples are not only helpful to \_\_\_\_\_ but crucial to maintain for ultimate victory.

#### 1. The example of a \_\_\_\_\_ – 2 Timothy 2:3-4

##### a. Not just a soldier but a \_\_\_\_\_ soldier

- Must \_\_\_\_\_ consider failure as an option

##### b. Characteristics of a *good* soldier who endures hardness

- Soldiers alongside disobedient troops
- Is separated from his past life, friends, and family
- Experiences loneliness
- Lives in the cold, rain, mud, and extreme heat
- Fights when he is tired; he often goes without rest
- Gets shot at and sometimes is wounded from an enemy attack
- Unfortunately, receives "friendly fire"
- Experiences defeat, as well as victory in battle
- Experiences fear
- Sometimes is shell-shocked (PTSD)
- Exercises continuously to the extreme to prepare for the rigors of battle
- Knows how to use his weapons
- Cares for the wounded and leaves no hurt soldier behind
- Watches people die; he mourns and weeps for his fellows killed in action
- Completely and thoroughly follows orders from a higher authority
- Is always flexible and always ready
- Is prepared to give up his life if needed
- A soldier is a soldier 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year
- A soldier gives up all rights as a citizen of his representative country
- He is, by design, removed from all connection with his present life in order to be effective

2. The example of an \_\_\_\_\_ – 2 Timothy 2:5

a. Not just an athlete but a \_\_\_\_\_ athlete

- Must not consider \_\_\_\_\_ as an option

b. Characteristics of a *champion* athlete

- Thinks about his sport continuously
- Exercises and practices daily
- Experiences injury and pain
- Does not always win or experience victory
- Is well-known as an athlete
- If a team sport, he is a team-player and seeks like-mindedness and unity
- Does not stay out late nor participates in the common things others do
- Sometimes travels far distances to compete
- Follows all the rules and standards to qualify and win the prize

3. The example of a \_\_\_\_\_ – 2 Timothy 2:6

a. Not just a farmer but a \_\_\_\_\_ farmer

- Must \_\_\_\_\_ consider failure as an option

b. Characteristics of a *fruitful* farmer

- Purchases a field
- Works the field (plows, plants, fertilizes, harvests)
- Feeds and cares for livestock (puts beasts needs above self)
- Gets up early every day and works hard all day (never gets a day off, always on duty)
- Understands the importance of rest
- Always studies to understand and apply what he has learned
- Practices patience
- Does everything he can do to ensure a profitable harvest
- Eats and enjoys the fruit of his labor
- Ultimately must \_\_\_\_\_ God to provide the right elements for fruitfulness

Conclusion – 2 Timothy 2:7

- Things to consider: The soldier who gives up the fight will lose the battle  
The athlete who does not play by the rules will lose the prize  
The farmer who stops trusting God and working will not see the harvest