

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

The Cost of War and Its Weapons

1 Ki. 10:26 "And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem. 27 And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance. 28 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. 29 And a **chariot** came up and went out of Egypt for **six hundred shekels of silver**, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means."

While war is needful for defeating the enemies that would destroy us and for defending ourselves against those who would enslave us, yet there is a great cost for waging war. In the above example, Solomon and the children of Israel paid six hundred shekels of silver for a chariot and one hundred and fifty shekels for a horse. Since they had a thousand and four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, the cost was very great. In a natural sense, the cost of war and being prepared for war is extremely steep in our country today.

Our warfare in the Kingdom of God is not a natural warfare, yet there still is a high price to pay in this spiritual warfare. To be a soldier in the army of God, one must be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The following verses tell us of the cost of discipleship and ultimately the cost of fighting the good fight of faith:

1. Luke 14:25 "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an

ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

2. Luke 9:57 "And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. 59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. 61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. 62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

3. Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

4. John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

5. John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

6. John 15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

7. Matt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

From the above we draw the following conclusions of the cost of discipleship and of fighting the good fight of faith:

1. We must love the Lord more than we love any of our family members.
2. We must love the Lord more than we love our own life.
3. We must take up our crosses daily.
4. We must forsake all that we have to follow the Lord and be his disciple.

5. We must be willing to not have a certain dwelling place.
6. We must put serving the Lord above all else, even the burying of our father.
7. We must put the Lord's service ahead of saying goodbye to our friends and family at home.
8. The Lord must be our master and not mammon.
9. We must continue in the Lord's word.
10. We must love one another.
11. We must bear much fruit.
12. We must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Further, there are additional costs to being a good soldier in the army of God. We must be willing to bear hardships, to be unselfish, to do things the Lord's way and not our way. We must be willing to trust the Lord and his word.