

# THE EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS EPHESIANS 06:21–24

## *Introduction*

This passage presents two Christian soldiers who were faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. They are a dynamic example for every person who has enlisted in the great army of the Lord.

- I. There was the Christian soldier Tychicus (vv.21-22).
- II. There was the Christian soldier Paul (vv.23-24).

## **I. *Ephesians 06:21–22 Tychicus, the Believers***

There was the Christian soldier Tychicus (see *Tychicus*, Eph. 6:21-22). Paul says three significant things about this great soldier of Christ.

1. He was a beloved brother: he was a man who had believed in Jesus Christ and demonstrated it by loving others ever so deeply. He treated others as brothers, loving and helping them as he could. Therefore, others counted him as dear to their heart — as a dear brother.

*Acts 20:35* “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

*Rom 12:13* Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

*Gal 6:10* Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

*1 Tim 6:17-18* Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

*Heb 13:16* And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

*1 John 3:16* This is how you know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

2. He was a faithful minister: a man called and gifted by Christ to preach the gospel and to minister to the needs of God’s dear people. He was a man who had a worldwide vision: he gave his life to reach the people of the world with the glorious news that living forever was now possible. And note: he was faithful. There was no slack or
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slumber, no routineness or slothfulness, no complacency or neglect, no questioning or weakening; he did not fail in his ministry. He was a faithful servant — faithful *in the Lord*. He knew where his strength came from, and he drew his strength from the Lord day by day.

**John 9:4** “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

**Acts 4:20** “For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

**1 Cor 4:2** Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

**1 Cor 6:20** You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.

**1 Cor 9:16** Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

**1 Cor 15:58** Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

3. He was a friend of believers, a messenger of encouragement. Paul was in prison. The believers of Ephesus were concerned about Paul’s welfare, and Paul was concerned that they know that he was doing well through the strength of the Lord. But how was Paul going to communicate with the church which was so far away? The answer lay in a dear, dear friend and fellow minister, Tychicus. Note this: Tychicus had his own ministry. He could have been out preaching, witnessing and ministering on his own. Remember he was a world-wide minister, having given his life to world evangelism and missions. Yet, here he was giving his time and energy to helping Paul and serving in Paul’s ministry. He is seen giving up a separate ministry in order to serve as a dear friend and fellow minister with Paul. Apparently he was the ideal minister and messenger of encouragement.

**James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**1 Cor 4:7** For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

**Phil 2:3-4** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Luke 14:10** “But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests.”

**Luke 22:26** “But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.”

**James 4:10** *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

**1 Pet 5:5** *Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

### EPHESIANS 06:21–22 TYCHICUS

Tychicus was a native of Asia. He was a companion of Paul who often traveled with him (Acts 20:4).

=> He was commissioned by Paul as a messenger to various churches (Eph. 6:21f; Col. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 3:12).

=> He was entrusted to deliver the letters of Paul to the Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon (Eph. 6:21-22; Col. 4:7-8).

=> He was sent on a special mission to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12).

=> He was to be sent to Crete for the purpose of relieving Titus (Tit. 3:12).

=> He was called not only Paul’s dear brother and faithful servant, but also his fellow-slave (Col. 4:7). □

## II. *Ephesians 06:23–24 Paul, the Believers*

There was the Christian soldier Paul. A glimpse into Paul’s heart can be gleaned from these two verses.

1. Paul was a spiritual brother to other believers. Note that his concern was for the spiritual welfare of others.
  - a. He invoked *peace* upon them (see *Peace*, Eph. 2:14-15; Gal. 1:3; 5:22-23).
  - b. He invoked *love* upon them (see *Love*, Eph. 2:4-5; Gal. 5:13-15; 5:14; 5:22-23).
  - c. He invoked *faith* upon them (see *Faith* or *Faithful*, Eph. 1:1-2; 2:8-10; Gal. 5:22-23; see Gal. 2:15-16; 2:16; 2:19-21; 3:6-14).
2. Paul was a prayer warrior for other believers. He prayed that God’s *grace* would rest upon them. (See *Grace*, Eph. 2:8-9; 2:8-10.) ■