

Then he will require you to serve him cheerfully, patiently, unquestioningly, courageously, and never be ashamed of him or his cause ; for he says "Whosoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels." Are you willing to agree to all this ? Will you enlist on these terms ?

I will.

Then you must "put on the whole armour of God." Do you know what that is ? Paul tells us. You must be girded about, that is, clothed with *truth*, and have on the breast-plate of *righteousness*. And be assured, my little friend, whoever has that garment and that breast-plate is perfectly secure from all harm ; proof against every weapon of the enemy. Your feet must be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of *peace*. Shoes made from that preparation can never wear out. Then you must take the shield of *faith*, which is so peculiar that it quenches all the fiery darts of the wicked foe, as water puts out a flame, or a puff of strong wind extinguishes a candle. You must put on too the helmet of *salvation*, and take in your hand the sword of the *Spirit*. With this armour, and watching and praying continually, you will be a match for your adversaries. Have you got it ?

No, but I will procure it if I can.

It is the gift of God. He provides it for all those who apply for it.

I will ask him for it.

Then if you want to be a "*good soldier* of Jesus Christ" you must learn to *endure hardness*. You must not mind trifles or complain that what you have to do is not easy and pleasant. Whatever is required, do with all your might as well as you can, and with a pleasant look and manner. If things occur to vex or trouble you, you must pay no attention to them but fling them aside, and press right on in your Master's service. You must not entangle yourself with amusements and pursuits of this life, for you need to be free from everything that would hinder or embarrass your movements. You must not indulge in idleness, for idleness makes the strongest muscles weak. You must not indulge yourself in ease or selfish comfort, but accustom yourself to self-denial and constant diligent exercise. Thus you will grow stronger every day, and your duties will become more and more familiar and agreeable. Self-denial makes good soldiers ; self-indulgence very poor ones, unworthy of such a glorious and good Commander as Jesus Christ, who himself was "made perfect through suffering." Can you say, Yes to all this ?

I will try.