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## BOOT CAMP

If you were in the U.S. Armed Forces you would first of all go through “boot camp.” This is the place that you learn to be the “soldier” that you signed up to be. Boot camp requires you to follow the orders of the “Drill Instructor.” Often these drills are very strenuous. They will be rising early and following the orders throughout the “basic training.”

In Boot Camp they learn to march with precision with the rest of the recruits. They learn to follow precisely what the Drill Instructor tells them to do, or they will be disciplined. Their muscles are stretched and so is their will. The purpose of Boot Camp is to “break” the recruit so that person will follow instructions and not do their own thing. Boot Camp breaks their will so that they will follow instructions when they are given. It is not an easy time for the new recruit. Upon completion there is a ceremony and the recruits now become part of the Armed Forces and then do their assignment. Some never make the cut. They leave boot camp or even the military because they just couldn’t handle the pressure of following the leader.

When a person becomes a Christian, they now are part of God’s Army. Like that military recruit, they will also go through training. The fivefold ministry which includes Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher are given to instruct this new “recruit” so they are able to stand the pressures of being in God’s army. They should be taught that all is not “rosy” in this army and there are many darts from the enemy that will be shot at them. A good Pastor will have classes for the new believer so they can learn who they are in Christ and surrender their will to His will. Without proper “spiritual boot camp” you can be certain that many will not make it in their Christian walk.

The new convert must learn that his marching orders come from the Word of God. He must know that his faith in the “Commander in Chief” comes through hearing the Word of God preached so his faith is built.

You can be sure that a feel good message will not prepare that new Christian for the war that they are now in. The fivefold ministry is not about themselves. Their sole purpose is in equipping the new saints so they can do the work necessary to win the battles. Spiritual bootcamp must be given to make a good soldier for Jesus.