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BASIC TRAINING

If you have ever been in the military of the United States, then the first place they sent you was to “boot camp.” There was a drill instructor that was in your face for six weeks. During this time, you were told when to get up, when to walk, when to run, when to do whatever they tell you to do and no talking back. You signed up for the military and you were no longer your own. You were literally theirs.

During that six-week boot camp your muscles were stretched, and your body ached. You learned how to work together with the rest of the “company” that you were assigned to. You became a unit and in order to graduate from the boot camp you had to work together as a team. It no longer was all about “you.” This training is absolutely necessary for one to learn how to defend himself and his country. You learn in the military who your enemies are and how to deal with them. When you leave basic training in boot camp you are now a soldier awaiting orders.

Some did not make it through basic training. They couldn’t take the discipline and they left the military before they really started. Basic training sifted out those that could not “cut it.”

Life as a Christian should be like the military. We should each go through basic training to know what God expects of us. We would learn that we no longer own ourselves, but God owns us when we gave our lives to him. We should learn that there will be a stretching of our faith beyond anything that can happen to us. We should learn that there is a real enemy far worse than any enemy a military soldier could face. That enemy is Satan who has one purpose, and that purpose is to kill you, steal from you, and destroy you. Without understanding this many Christians fail in their walk of faith because they were not taught that being a Christian would be a life-long battle.

Being a Christian is not just a religious title. It is your life. We must remember to count the cost or we, like those soldiers that couldn’t make it through boot camp, may not make it either.

The five-fold ministry has one purpose and that is to equip the saints (through spiritual basic training) to serve God as a soldier in his army. Unfortunately, many in the five-fold ministry may hold a title, but do not have the anointing to teach the “new Christian” so they do not equip them like they should be equipped. Every pastor, prophet, evangelist, teacher, and apostle will be held accountable to God for leading the flock into green pastures where they are fed the truth and kept from wolves.

Spiritual boot camp is an absolute necessity if a Christian is to walk a victorious Christian life. Then beyond boot camp is continuous training and leading by the Holy Spirit so one can mature and bring others into the army of God.