

## Soldiers of Christ, Arise!

### Introduction:

1. The lyrics of this song were written by Charles Wesley in 1749.
2. Wesley was the 18<sup>th</sup> of 19 children in his family.
3. He was born on December 8, 1708, and died on March 29, 1788.
4. In his lifetime, Charles Wesley wrote over 6,500 songs.
5. This song has been set to music by at least 60 different composers.
6. The music for this version of the song was composed by William B. Bradbury – a tune he called KIRKWOOD.
7. Bradbury was born in York, Maine in 1816.
  - a. At the age of 15 he became an organist.
  - b. During his life he taught singing schools, organized music festivals, helped to introduce singing classes in the public schools of Boston, and composed and published numerous pieces of music.
  - c. Without doubt, his most well-known music is the melody for the song “Jesus Loves Me.”
8. After contracting tuberculosis, he died in 1868.

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Timothy 2

- I. The Wesley Brothers
  - A. In 1527, King Henry VIII of England split from the Catholic Church and declared himself to be the head of the Church of England.
  - B. Many tried to use this as an opportunity to reform corruption in the religion of England, but Henry demanded the Church of England remain a duplicate of the Roman Catholic Church.
  - C. Nearly 200 years later, brothers John and Charles Wesley sought to reform the Church of England as Martin Luther had attempted for the Catholic Church.
  - D. They were upset with the cold formality of the Anglican religion and sought to correct it – they were not trying to form a new religion or church.
  - E. They practiced strict adherence to the method prescribed in the Church of England’s prayer book; thus, they were mocked with the name “Methodists.”
  - F. The Wesley’s were Arminian, meaning they rejected certain doctrines of Calvinism.
  - G. Because of their views, the Wesley brothers and their followers faced strong opposition and persecution.
  - H. Charles Wesley died in 1788, and his brother John died in 1790.
  - I. Though they insisted that their followers remain loyal members of the Church of England, the Methodists separated from it in 1795.

Soldiers of Christ, arise And put your armor on;  
Strong in the strength which God supplies Thro’ His beloved Son.

Strong in the Lord of hosts And in His mighty pow'r;  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts, Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might, With all His strength endued;  
But take, to arm you for the fight, The panoply of God.

Leave no unguarded place, No weakness of the soul;  
Take ev'ry virtue, ev'ry grace, And fortify the whole.

That having all things done, And all your conflicts past,  
You may o'erecome thro' Christ alone, And stand entire at last.

Pray without ceasing, pray, (Your Captain gives the word)  
His summons cheerfully obey and call upon the Lord.

To God your every want, In instant prayer display;  
Pray always, pray and never faint, Pray without ceasing, pray.

From strength to strength go on, Wrestle and fight and pray;  
Tread all the powers of darkness down And win the well-fought day.

Still let the Spirit cry In all His soldiers, "Come!"  
Till Christ the Lord descends from high And takes the conquerors home.

## II. The Lord's Army

- A. Comprised of volunteers, no conscripts (Matthew 11:28-30)
- B. Of understanding (Mark 16:16; Luke 14:26-28)
- C. Meeting conditions of enlistment (Acts 2:38; 8:37)
- D. Maintaining proper priorities (Matthew 6:33; 2 Timothy 2:4)
- E. Continuing training (1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 1:5-10)
- F. Obedient to the orders of the Captain, Jesus (Hebrews 2:10)
- G. Willing to fight the enemy (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7)
- H. Clothed in proper armor (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- I. Trusting in the power of the Lord (Hebrews 4:12; Romans 1:16)

## III. Soldiers of Christ (2 Timothy 2)

- A. A Soldier of Christ is Strong (vs. 1-2).
- B. A Soldier of Christ is Strict (vs. 3-10).
- C. A Soldier of Christ is Secure (vs. 11-13).
- D. A Soldier of Christ is Sound (vs. 14-19).
- E. A Soldier of Christ is Sanctified (vs. 20-23).
- F. A Soldier of Christ is a Servant (vs. 24-26).

### Conclusion: **Arise!**

1. The battle surrounds the Lord's army.
2. It is not time to rest in the camp but to engage the enemy!
3. Arise! Awake! Fight the good fight of faith!