

My Loved Ones:

God says in 2 Timothy 2:3 - "You therefore endure suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Sabine Baring-Gould was a man who was truly one of the most gifted preachers and literary men of his day. He was an Anglican (Episcopalian) minister, and who wrote over 85 books on such varied topics as religion, travel, folk-lore, mythology, history, fiction, biography, sermons and popular theology. In his day, the British Museum contained more titles by him than by any other writer of this time. But the work for which he is most famous is this children's hymn. He said that he was teaching in his school, and that his elementary school was going to visit a neighboring elementary school within walking distance. He wanted the children to stay in step and not get out of line, but couldn't think of anything quite suitable. So, he sat up all night and resolved to write something himself. He said that in writing it in haste, some of the rhymes aren't very good. But we're still left with "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Loved ones, we need to get some hardness in us as soldiers for the Lord. Times are tough. They may get tougher. Our Jesus is equal to the task; we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. May we not be fearful, but marching forward for Him!

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

We love you and are praying for you today.