



L.E.A.N. Letter

~The Soul-jour Series~ "Becoming A Soul-jour" ©

Soul-jour: A soul on a journey- an *enlisted* disciple engaged in fulfilling one's duties while serving their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"I'M THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A SOUL-JOUR IN THE LORD'S ARMY."

Upon contemplating committing yourself to taking this journey with Jesus Christ, an avalanche of thoughts and emotions may hit you all at once as you imagine serving as a *Soul-jour* in the Lord's army. Perhaps you're feeling joy and excitement, but also maybe a little fear, concern, or doubt. Perhaps you're wondering..."Is this life for me?", "Am I willing to sacrifice my current lifestyle?", or even "Am I worthy of such a high calling?" It's okay. You're not the only one who's felt this way.

It's so important to really delve deeply into your heart to determine why the *Soul-jour* life is for you before making this big step. Why? Because your world will forever change, and you need to be ready for this adjustment. For example, would you just get married on a whim without recognizing that your life will no longer be your own? Your home will be filled with the presence of another (and kids possibly too), your debt is now shared, and you cannot just come and go as you please, or make major financial decisions without first consulting with your spouse. Then, there is the issue of no longer having authority over your own body as you must yield it to your husband/wife (1 Corinthians 7:4), which will add on even more changes to how you live your life. Sure, there are those who don't consider these major changes before making this commitment, and how many of those marriages stand the test of time and life's trials, and/or are in a happy, healthy, and fruitful marriage? Just like marriage is a serious commitment to the person you love (while on earth), salvation is an even bigger promise to love The One who created you and has promised to be with you through eternal life.

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU CHOOSE TO ENLIST...

Every prospective *Soul-jour* deserves to know what to possibly expect after joining the ranks of the Lord's army. Knowledge about the Truth of *enlistment* is essential to avoiding any questions of doubt that may arise once your decision to serve has been made. This information should relay the level of seriousness of making the commitment to be a *Soul-jour*, which will help you determine if this life is for you.

So, what does it mean to *enlist*? *Enlisting* to serve Jesus means that you will make a life-long vow (just like in marriage) through the (2) steps of salvation: 1) "Confess **with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord, and 2) Believe **in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved" (Romans 10:9-10). So, at that time, you are welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven as a *Soul-jour* in the Lord's army! You then become a child of the most-high God, and promised eternal life, unconditional love, peace beyond understanding, freedom(s) beyond comprehension, and power to live in CONSTANT victory in Jesus' name!

Shortly after *enlistment*, you may begin to experience random "negative" occurrences such as...your car breaks down, your dog dies, an ailment mysteriously manifests, etc., and sometimes these types of situations happen in succession, or all at once. Or, your loved ones may have difficulty understanding the new life you have chosen, which can impose mental cloudiness and/or doubt unless you are solid in your decision about the life that you have chosen. This is the nature of spiritual warfare...it just comes with the territory when you serve as a *Soul-jour* in the Lord's army. Your greatest adversary, Satan, will await to put you down, lie to you, and make you believe that you are not the powerful warrior that you have just become. Fear, and other crippling emotions may be used to pull you off your destined path, but heed this warning ahead of time, and beware of those traps.

Though every *Soul-jour's* journey is different, the fruits of the Holy Spirit are the same for all of God's children. So, anything that is not of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) is not of the Lord, therefore, you are being spiritually attacked. Persecution is just part of the *enlistment* "package" as you defend the honor of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as protect the Truth within The Holy Bible (2 Timothy 3:12). **Please read on...**



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As troublesome as all of this may sound, DO NOT FEAR, because you will be filled with the almighty power of the Holy Spirit, and will overcome all of life's obstacles in Jesus' name. There is nothing too big that the Lord cannot, and will not, handle. Not to mention, trials should be welcomed because they are a necessary part of any *Soul-jour's* journey to transform you into your higher self (James 1:2-4).

TO ENLIST OR NOT TO ENLIST...A QUESTION THAT ONLY YOU CAN ANSWER!

Once *enlisted*, you are automatically considered a *Soul-jour*, regardless of your role within the body of Christ. A *Soul-jour* is a *Soul-jour*, and it is up to everyone who *enlists* to take their role seriously. The "rules of warfare" do not discriminate, and apply to everyone who *enlists*.

*Be forewarned, faith without action is faith that is dead (James 2:17). The Lord desires that each *Soul-jour* willingly fulfill his/her duties, without question and with unshakable (blind) faith, according to the Word of God (Hebrews 11:1). For those *Soul-jours* who choose not to stand firmly in the foundation of the Lord's Truth, understand that this does not change the commitment you will have already made, and you are still expected to "fight" accordingly. How you choose to "fight" will be up to you. Your survival will be determined by what's in your heart, which is based upon what you truly believe. Also, if you choose to *enlist* and only wear the "uniform" without recognizing the responsibility that comes with the territory, then beware of the possibility of being tossed around like the waves in the sea (Ephesians 4:14). Your journey may become a very long, and uncomfortable one, but that is up to you.

Joining the Lord's ranks is a decision that only you can make, but trust that you will never walk alone. Your new life requires the support and encouragement of a *Soul-jour's* BEST Friend, Companion and most-valued Advisor...the NAME of the one interceding on your behalf, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34). Jesus' name is your greatest, and most reliable weapon of power in addition to the Word of God.

As a *Soul-jour*, you will be accompanied by your new spiritual family...your brothers and sisters in Christ. They may be helping you behind the scenes, or may even accompany you at times while fulfilling your mission. Like you, they have their own purpose and mission to complete, but are often called upon to work within their spiritual gifting to lift up, repair, or even renew the body of Christ to continue the good fight.

All of God's children are expected to use their spiritual gifts, once saved. The Holy Spirit is the One who will choose the gifts that you will have (1 Corinthians 12:11). This includes: healing, miraculous powers, prophesy, and speaking in tongues, just to name a few (1 Corinthians 12:8-11). You, too, will be looked upon to operate in your gifts at some point throughout your journey.

To be successful as a *Soul-jour*, you must be ready to respond accordingly to your newfound responsibilities and break free from the world, and then live in the Spirit with Jesus. So, with this worldly lifestyle that you may be concerned about leaving behind, just let go, and let Jesus show you what your heart truly desires (Psalm 37:4). Just know that even though you may not know Jesus, He knows you, your thoughts, and your heart. Also, to put your heart and mind at ease, the Lord will never give any of His children more than we can handle.

Just remember... SALVATION = SOUL-JOUR!

~ These inspired words are intended to strengthen the body of Christ so that we can eliminate "obesity" of our spirit (unnecessary confusion and distraction), and to set ourselves apart from the world so that we can stand out as the mighty warriors we are called to be In Jesus' name! (These inspired messages/teachings are never to substitute the pure Word of God found in The Holy Bible.) ~

May you be blessed, and may you "Live L.E.A.N. (Loving Everyone As Neighbors)...Live Long!"

~Scripture passages are cited using the NIV Holy Bible.~