

1 Cor 9:26-27 NIV

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

*“Of every 100 men in battle 10 shouldn't even be here, 80 are mere targets, 9 are real fighters...we are lucky to have them...they the battle make. Ah, but the one, one of them is a WARRIOR...and he will bring the others back.” Hericletus, 500 BC*

## **The Characteristics of Special Operators**

And what we Christ following men can learn from these great soldiers.

1. **Out of love and loyalty they serve sacrificially and anonymously** – they do not advertise the nature of their work nor seek recognition for their actions. *Gratitude*
  
2. **They are superbly trained and practiced in all aspects of battle** - through hundreds of hours of undistracted training they know their weapons and equipment. They are artists with suture, map, and M-16 rifle and are prepared to heal, direct, or destroy. *Knowledge of the Word*
  
3. **They travel light** - they carry with them only those things necessary for their mission. *Simplicity*
  
4. **They make a pact of total allegiance to one another** - they enjoy a profound Commitment to serve their brothers and to help them succeed. *Intimate fellowship*
  
5. **Their time is totally devoted to 2 things:** 1) **honing their battle skills**  
2) **engaging in the battle itself** - by necessity they are single-minded in their focus and are consequently not much good for anything else. *Prayer*
  
6. **They don't cry out when wounded but simply continued to fight** - they have learned to treat their wounds, deal with the pain, and focus on destroying the works of the enemy. *Perseverance*
  
7. **They fully expect to die in battle** - concerns about old age and retirement don't cloud their thinking. *An eternal perspective*

## *Navy Seal Ethos*

In times of war or uncertainty there is a special breed of warrior ready to answer our Nation's call. A common man with uncommon desire to succeed. Forged by adversity, he stands alongside America's finest special operations forces to serve his country, the American people, and protect their way of life. I am that man.

My Trident is a symbol of honor and heritage. Bestowed upon me by the heroes that have gone before, it embodies the trust of those I have sworn to protect. By wearing the Trident I accept the responsibility of my chosen profession and way of life. It is a privilege that I must earn every day.

My loyalty to Country and Team is beyond reproach. I humbly serve as a guardian to my fellow Americans always ready to defend those who are unable to defend themselves. I do not advertise the nature of my work, nor seek recognition for my actions. I voluntarily accept the inherent hazards of my profession, placing the welfare and security of others before my own.

I serve with honor on and off the battlefield. The ability to control my emotions and my actions, regardless of circumstance, sets me apart from other men. Uncompromising integrity is my standard. My character and honor are steadfast. My word is my bond.

We expect to lead and be led. In the absence of orders I will take charge, lead my teammates and accomplish the mission. I lead by example in all situations.

I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. My Nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down, I will get back up, every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight.

We demand discipline. We expect innovation. The lives of my teammates and the success of our mission depend on me - my technical skill, tactical proficiency, and attention to detail. My training is never complete.

We train for war and fight to win. I stand ready to bring the full spectrum of combat power to bear in order to achieve my mission and the goals established by my country. The execution of my duties will be swift and violent when required yet guided by the very principles that I serve to defend.

Brave men have fought and died building the proud tradition and feared reputation that I am bound to uphold. In the worst of conditions, the legacy of my teammates steadies my resolve and silently guides my every deed. I will not fail.

**2 Sam 23:13-17 NIV**

**13** During harvest time, three of the thirty chief men came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. **14** At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. **15** David longed for water and said, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!" **16** So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the LORD. **17** "Far be it from me, O LORD, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" And David would not drink it.

**2 Tim 2:3-4 NIV**

**3** Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.