

**Faith That Moves Mountains**  
**HOW TO GIVE GOD MY BEST Part # 2**  
**Rick Edwards**

**HOW DO I GIVE MY BEST TO GOD?**

2 Timothy 2:3-7 – A Soldier    An Athlete    A Farmer

*“Endure hardship with us like a GOOD SOLDIER of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets tied up in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as AN ATHLETE, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. And the HARDWORKING FARMER should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Think about these three illustrations, and the Lord will help you to understand how they apply to you.” 2 Timothy 2:3-7*

**LESSONS FROM THE MILITARY**  
**LIKE AN EFFECTIVE SOLDIER, I MUST . . .**

**1. DEFINE WHAT I WOULD DIE FOR.**

“The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

**2. SACRIFICE MY COMFORT**

*“Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 2:3*

*“Live a life of sacrificial love just like Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice for us.” Ephesians 5:2*

**3. ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS**

*“As Christ’s soldier, do not let yourself become entangled in the affairs of this life, wasting time, for then you can’t please your commanding officer who enlisted you in his army.” 2 Timothy 2:4*

**LESSONS FROM SPORTS**

**TO WIN THE PRIZE, I MUST . . .**

**1. I MUST INTEND TO WIN.**

*“In a race everyone runs, but only one person wins the prize. So run your race to win!” 1 Corinthians 9:24*

**2. I MUST DISCIPLINE MYSELF.**

*“To win the contest you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from DOING YOUR BEST. An athlete goes into strict training just to win a ribbon or medal that won’t last, but we do it for an eternal reward that will last forever! . . . So I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.” 1 Corinthians 9:25-27*

**3. I MUST STAY FOCUSED ON THE REWARD,**

*“I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step! I fight to win. I’m not just shadow-boxing or playing around.” 1 Corinthians 9:26*

## LESSONS FROM FARMING

*“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. Then God will generously provide all you need, and you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others . . . For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you! Yes, you will be enriched SO THAT you can give even more generously! . . . You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts, AND your generosity will prove you are obedient to the Good News of Christ!” 2 Corinthians 9:6-13 (NLT)*

### TO REAP A GREAT HARVEST, I MUST . . .

**Plant generously in faith**

### 2 PROMISES OF JESUS

You must **GIVE** and You must **GIVE UP**

*“**Give**, and it will be given back to you. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold. You will be given so much that it will spill into your lap. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you.” Luke 6:38*

*Jesus said, “I guarantee you this: Anyone who **gives up** anything for my sake and the Good News—whether a home or a family member or property—will get **MORE THAN THAT BACK**, multiplied a **HUNDREDFOLD**, and in the world to come they will be given life forever!” Mark 10:29-30*