

**FINDING THE COMRADE
GOD; THE ESSENTIALS
OF A SOLDIERLY FAITH**

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Finding the comrade God; the essentials of a soldierly faith by George Walter Fiske

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GEORGE WALTER FISKE

**FINDING THE COMRADE
GOD; THE ESSENTIALS
OF A SOLDIERLY FAITH**

Finding the Comrade God

The Essentials of a Soldierly Faith



G. WALTER FISKE

Junior Dean, Oberlin Graduate School of Theology



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1918

TO MY FRIEND

HOWARD TUXBURY SANDS

A Business Man of Sterling Character
A Christian Whose Soldierly Faith
Is the Inspiration of All His Comrades

KEEP HEART, O COMRADE! GOD MAY BE DELAYED
BY EVIL, BUT HE SUFFERS NO DEFEAT.
GOD IS NOT FOILED; THE DRIFT OF THE WORLD WILL
IS STRONGER THAN ALL WRONG.

—*Whitman*

PREFACE

RELIGION MUST BE A DISCOVERY

Religion to be an achievement must first be a discovery. This book is the result of a quest, conducted by the author a few months ago with a choice company of business men in a suburb of Boston. Through the medium of a lecture-discussion course, under the general subject, "Religion for a World at War," the men of the united churches of Melrose for twelve weeks endeavored to analyze the prime factors of religion, the essentials of a soldierly faith. The studies then worked out with these men, and informally presented, are here offered for the use of similar groups of earnest men elsewhere.

It is the writer's conviction that all the essential elements of the Christian faith are non-sectarian; and that the *Church that is to be* will emphasize only the great simple truths of the Gospel of the Incarnation, the good news of a Comrade God in life, the common possession of all Christians. Sectarian ideas have been rigidly avoided. Illustrative material has been gathered as far as possible from the religious experience of current life, in order that the book may more definitely meet the needs of men in the great world struggle.

This is a textbook for men in the prime factors of religion. The sevenfold division of each chapter, with biblical material connected with each section, makes it

PREFACE

convenient to use the book privately in daily devotional study, as well as in Bible classes of men. Suggestive questions based mainly on the text are given at the end of each chapter, to guide class discussion or to stimulate thought in private study.

No bibliography is appended to these chapters, but certain recent volumes to which the author feels particularly indebted are here recommended for supplementary reading. In suggesting them, the author wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the insights and inspirations which these volumes have given him: King, "Fundamental Questions"; Palmer, "The Drift Toward Religion"; Illingworth, "Divine Immanence"; McConnell, "The Diviner Immanence"; Hyde, "The Gospel of Good Will"; Lyman, "The Experience of God in Modern Life"; Hanky, "A Student in Arms," and "The Church and the Man"; Murray, "Faith, War, and Policy"; Eddy, "Suffering and the War," and "With Our Soldiers in France"; Bosworth, "The Christian Witness in War"; the "Atlantic Papers": "The War and the Spirit of Youth"; Williams, "Shall We Understand the Bible?"; and particularly Dr. Fosdick's four volumes, "The Challenge of the Present Crisis," "The Assurance of Immortality," "The Meaning of Prayer," and "The Meaning of Faith."

In presenting these studies of religious experience, the author gratefully remembers the stimulating comradeship of that remarkably alert group of men in Melrose, whose keen questions and unflagging interest were a constant challenge to him. Without their inspiration, encouragement, and sympathetic response the book would never have been written.

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