

Dan24-Bat10 - **The Armor - FAITH – Eph 6:16**

In addition to **Tony Evans** Words of Wisdom  
in his book - **“Victory in Spiritual Warfare”**

I also received real encouragement from **Beth Moore’s book**  
**“Praying God’s Word”** – Her Ch on Spiritual Warfare  
*(I’d recommend both)*

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**Last week** we did our **2nd Msg** on **GOD’S PEACE**  
as **Part** of the **Spiritual Armor**

& we **had to close** that message **too fast** (due to time)

But in the **last few min’s** I mentioned some **SUPER–Important** ways  
for you to **HIT the Gym** every day

To **Exercise** yourself to **LIVING in God’s PEACE**

I’d **really encourage** you to **GET** that Msg  
& **listen carefully** to the last **SIX Min’s** or so

& **PLS –Consider** actually **DOING** what you **need to DO**  
in **order to Walk** – **Not only** in the **PEACE of God** . . .

But in **ALL** the **Spiritual Armor** *(that was the subject Lst Wk)*

& **ALSO** – **PLS** consider **listening** to our **FUNDAMENTALS series**  
*(or watching for the workbook coming soon)*

**That Series** Really **Teaches** you  
**HOW** to **Hit the Spiritual Gym** - **Every Day**

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But **For today** – We've **GOT** to **Move on**

If we **ever want to finish** this series on **The Spiritual Battle**

**PEACE** was the **LAST** of the **3 Articles of Armor** we are called to **PUT ON** - meaning '**clothe ourselves**' in – at all times

They Are - **TRUTH** – **RIGHTEOUSNESS** - & **PEACE**

We are to **LIVE IN** (Immerse ourselves in) **These 3**

**& THEN** – we are to **TAKE UP** the **next 3 Articles** of **Armor**

**FAITH** – **SALVATION** (for our mind) – **WORD of GOD**

**A good illustration of this 2-Part system – Is a Baseball Player**

He always **WEARS** the **PARTS** of his **UNIFORM**

But he **TAKES UP** his **GLOVE** – **BAT** – or **BALL** – as required

So **Today** - We are in **the first** of the **TAKE UP** Articles of **ARMOR** that is – **The SHIELD of FAITH**

**Let's Read Ephesians 6:13–16 to set the stage (NLT)**

***13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.***

***14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.***

***15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.***

***16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. (repeat vs.16)***

**That's where** we're going today – **Let's Pray**

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**Again - Ephesians 6:16 (NLT)**

**16 In addition to (the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 'Put-On' articles), hold up (take up) the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.**

**Paul uses the Roman Soldier's SHIELD to illustrate FAITH**

I **believe Primarily** because - a **Roman Soldier's Shield** would **COVER** his **entire body** when he **crouched** down **behind** it

& so, when a **VOLLEY of arrows** would come, The **Soldier** would **cover** his **entire body** with his Shield - & **block** the arrows

There was a **great picture** of this in the **Movie – 300**

When **thousands of Arrows** from the enemy came **Raining down** on the **Spartans** - & they **came** together – **covered themselves** with **their shields** - & just **waited out the attack**

That is **actually** a **Very Good Picture** of what  
The **Shield of FAITH** does for us in **The Spiritual Battle**

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**IF** we have our **Shield of Faith READY** - &  
**IF** we **Know how** to **USE** it **WHEN** we are **attacked**

**When** the enemy **RAINS down** his **Fiery Arrows** –  
**Our SHIELD** of Faith **TAKES** the **IMPACT** of the **Arrows**

& if that **Shield** - is **STRONG** - & **IN-TACT**  
It will **STOP** - **Every Fiery Arrow** – The **Enemy sends** Your Way

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& **WHEN** do those **Enemy Arrows Rain Down** on **your life?**  
In **what** the Bible calls – **The EVIL DAY** (or The **TIME of EVIL**)

**Look back at Ephesians 6:13 (NLT)**

***13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil (Evil Day). Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.***

**The evil day is when all hell breaks loose on your life – like a rain of fiery arrows coming down on you**

**It's that day when you have:**

**No where to turn**

**No answers for your troubles**

**No ideas for your escape**

**& the enemy is raining fiery arrows down upon your life**

**THAT is the Day**

**When you MUST have your Shield of Faith READY**

**Tony Evans says, *"It's when you're breaking down emotionally and have lost your passion for life. It's when your marriage seems hopeless, your kids have turned away, your health deteriorates, your friend has betrayed you, you're overcome by your addiction, & your future looks seriously bleak."***

**THAT is the Evil day**

**& in THOSE days – You've GOT to be able to crouch down behind our Shield of Faith & REST there while the flaming arrows are falling all around you.**

**FAITH is Meant to PROTECT YOU**

**From the ATTACKS of The Enemy**

**& when USED CORRECTLY – Then the END of V.13 will be true  
***Then after the battle you will still be standing firm*****

& **THAT** is really **the Issue** – Isn't it? - - ***to be Standing FIRM (Remaining Faithful) at the End of the Battle?***

I had **someone text me yesterday** & say simply  
***Thank you for being FAITHFUL to Jesus***

& that is **really** what **OUR ROLE** is - in **The Spiritual Battle**  
***To Remain Faithful to Jesus – To STAND FIRM***

& **The Victory** that The **ENEMY WANTS** in your life  
***is to DESTROY your Faithfulness to Jesus***

**Because** he can **get you** to do **SO MUCH Damage** - **on HIS Behalf**  
if **he can** just ***DESTROY your Faithfulness to Jesus***

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**Faith** is **SO Critical** for **VICTORY** in **the Spiritual Battle**

**Because so often**

we can't **SEE** the **Victory** That **We HAVE in Christ**  
we can't **FEEL** the **Victory** in our **Natural Senses**

**In Fact** – So Often – **What** we **SEE** and what we **FEEL**  
**SEEMS** Like the **OPPOSITE of Victory**

**BUT** - If we will **HOLD UP** a **Strong Shield of Faith**

**We'll KNOW** – that we **HAVE** our **VICTORY in Christ**  
& **NOTHING** the **Enemy** can **THROW at us** can **CHANGE that**

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So – Let's look at a Formal Definition of Faith in God  
-- TURN Over to Heb Ch 11 --

Our Formal Definition is in Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

*1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*

Notice closely the words – CONFIDENCE & ASSURANCE

Faith gives us CONFIDENCE

Faith gives us ASSURANCE

& Remember – The Enemy's His Primary Weapon

is TEMP you – DECEIVE you – & MANIPULATE you  
To Get YOU to Destroy your OWN LIFE

But if your life is Covered with a

Strong CONFIDENCE & A Strong ASSURANCE in God

That FAITH – Will act like a FORCE-FIELD

To REPEL ALL the Fiery Attacks of the Enemy

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& just Two "English Language Clarifications" here

The word HOPE in Heb 11:1 means:

*"A confident expectation based a solid certainty"*

So Heb 11:1(A) – can be Translated:

*Faith is the confidence that what we Expect with Solid Certainty will actually happen . . .*

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& the word for **ASSURANCE** in Heb 11:1: Actually refers  
to a **TITLE DEED** – as in **PROOF of Ownership**

So Heb 11:1(B) can be Translated: *Faith gives us The Proof of Ownership about things we cannot see*

**FAITH** is the **Confidence** – That **God's Truths** in Your Life  
**WILL Actually Happen**

**FAITH** is the "**Proof of Ownership**" of **God's Truths** in Your life  
that you **CANNOT SEE**

& **IF** you will **GROW Your Faith STRONG**  
It will be a **Powerful SHIELD** – that **WILL STOP DEAD**  
**ALL Enemy Arrows** – of **Temptation** – **Deceit** - & **Manipulation**

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Here's **Another Definition** of **FAITH** – that **COMES** from **Heb 11:1**

**Faith** is **ACTING** on **The Confidence** of **God's Truth** In Your Life  
*Regardless of HOW you FEEL*

**Faith** is **BELIEVING** **God's Truth** in Your Life  
*Regardless of WHAT you SEE*

**George Mueller** says (paraphrased) - *Faith does not operate in the realm of what we can FEEL & SEE. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where what we can FEEL & SEE - ends.*

**THAT IS FAITH** - - - & **IF** we will **GROW that FAITH** –  
into a **Real Shield** – It will **STOP Every Fiery Attack** of the **Enemy**

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**NOW** – **Here** is the **NEXT POINT** about Faith:

***Faith is only as Valuable - as the TRUTH it is placed in***

**I know** someone who **REFUSES** to **believe** in the **simple truths** of **The Bible** – Yet **BELIEVES** whole-heartedly in **ALIENS**

**True Faith** Requires a **Foundation** – That is **WORTHY** of that **Faith** & **Jesus Christ** – With **God's Word** - **IS that FIRM FOUNDATION**

**To REPEL** the **Attacks** of the enemy – **Our Faith** must be **100%** **FOUNDED** on the **TRUTH of God** - & the **Truth of His WORD**

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**Remember** how we **STARTED** the **Spiritual Armor?**  
With **GOD'S TRUTH**

& **we said** - **ALL** the articles of the **Armor**  
are **TIED** to the **FOUNDATION** of **God's Truth**

**Your Righteousness** - Must be **FOUNDED** on **God's TRUTH**

**Your Peace** – Must be **FOUNDED** on **God's TRUTH**

**& Your Faith** – Must be **FOUNDED** on **God's TRUTH**

**God's TRUTH** – is the **FIRM FOUNDATION**

That is **WORTHY** – Of your **RADICAL FAITH**

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**True FAITH** Puts **100% of Your LIFE**  
**Fully Trusting** in **GOD** - & **God's WORD**

**True Faith** is **Not a Smorgasbord** – **Where** we can **pick & choose**  
**WHEN** we **WANT** to Have Faith in **God's Truth** - & when we **DON'T**



**So many Christians are like that guy who fell off a cliff,  
but managed to grab a tree limb on the way down**

& as **he's hanging on** the **Tree Limb** - he **cries out** to Heaven:  
***"Is anyone up there?"***

& God says **"I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe?"** - -  
***"Yes, Lord, I really believe, but I can't hang on much longer."***

& **God** says ***"all right, if you have Faith in me - Just let go of the branch."*** - - & after a **moment of silence**, the man **shouts back**:  
***"Is there anyone else up there?"***

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To Carry The **Shield of Faith** - We **CANNOT pick & choose**  
which **PART** of **God's TRUTH** we will **have faith in**

**That** will **cause us to embrace** certain **lies** & **sins**  
that **we want** to **KEEP in our lives**

**Which causes** us - **In THAT Area** - to **lay DOWN** our **Shield**  
& **instead put out** the **welcome mat** for The **Enemy**

**Charles Spurgeon** – on Spiritual Warfare – Says:  
***When the Archenemy finds a weak place in the walls of our castles, he takes care where to plant his battering ram and begin his siege. You may conceal your [weakness], even from your dearest friend, but you will not conceal it from your worst Enemy. He has lynx eyes and detects in a moment the weak point in your armor.***

If you **THINK** you Can **Have FAITH in God** - **ONLY in the Areas**  
that **YOU WANT** - & **IGNORE** the **other areas** of your life . . .  
**Your enemy** Will **Easily Hand You** – Your **DEFEAT**

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**NEXT – Faith is NOT About FEELING  
Faith is About ACTION**

**Faith is about TAKING ACTION - that is often Contrary to FEELING**

**Faith ACTS on God's TRUTH  
*When FEELING says DON'T ACT***

**Faith MOVES AHEAD on God's TRUTH  
*When FEELING says RUN AWAY***

**Faith is about WHAT YOU DO – NOT about WHAT YOU THINK**

**Faith is ACTING on God's TRUTH  
AGAINST what you SEE  
AGAINST what you FEEL**

**& - maybe most importantly – Faith is Acting on God's Truth  
whether you AGREE with God – OR NOT**

**Faith is ACTING on God's Truth – No Matter What**

**A.W. TOZER says: *The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience [to God] . . . [faith and obedience] are opposite sides of the same coin.***

**Faith ACTS According to God's TRUTH  
& AGAINST Your Own FEELINGS**

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**Habakkuk 2:4 (NLT)**

**4 “Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.**

**Paul quotes** the **last line** of this vs in **ROM 1:17** – **Where** (in the KJV) it says: **The just shall live by faith**

Which is the **Vs Credited** with **beginning** the **Transformation** of **Martin Luther** – that **Began the Reformation**

**What it means** is - those who **belong to God** **will live** their lives **BY FAITH** in **God's TRUTH**

It **means** **The ACTIONS** of our Lives are **Determined** by **FAITH** in **God's TRUTH**

**NOT** By **What we SEE** - & **NOT** By **What we FEEL**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)**  
***7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.***

**It Means** we "**Order our Steps**" – We **determine** the **COURSE of our LIVES** – **BY FAITH** in **God's TRUTH** **NOT** by what we **SEE or FEEL**

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I **KNOW** I'm **hammering** this home  
& I **KNOW** it might **NOT FEEL** all that **Positive**

But **Guys** - **this is WAR** - & The **Enemy** is **Playing for KEEPS**

& Our <b>Ultimate GOAL</b> (in The Spiritual Battle) - is for <b>Our Lives</b> to <b>Bring God GLORY</b> - <b>in the Heavenly Realm</b> - <b>For ALL Eternity</b>
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**REPEAT**

***If that is NEW information for you – Check Eph 3:10-11***

& **WALKING BY Faith** (**LIVING** By Faith) - Is a **Critical Requirement** to **being able** to **Bring God GLORY** - (*our ultimate purpose*)

**THAT** is why The **Apostle Paul** **says** in **That Famous Vs**

**Galatians 2:20 (ESV)**

*20 . . . And the life I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**LIVING By FAITH** means - **ACTING** on **God's TRUTH** **OVER** what We **SEE** – or **FEEL** – or **THINK**

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**Flip Back to Heb Ch 11**

**For Starters – Look at Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)**

*6 And it is impossible to please God without **faith**. Anyone who wants to **come to him** must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who **sincerely seek him**.*

**These** are **Words** of **ACTION TAKEN** – **Not** Just **TRUTHS BELIEVED**

**Faith STARTS** with **BELIEF**

**But Faith** is **DISPLAYED** in **ACTION**

Let's just **SURVEY Heb Ch 11** - & **Point out** the **Easy Examples** of **Faith DISPLAYED in ACTION**

**v.4** – By Faith - **Abel BROUGHT** an acceptable offering

**v.5** – By Faith – **Enoch WALKED with God** - & **Pleased God**

**v.7** - By Faith – **Noah BUILT** the Ark

**v.8** - By Faith – **Abraham OBEYED** God to Leave & Go

**v.9** - By Faith – **Isaac & Jacob OBEYED** the same Command

- v.17** - By Faith – **Abraham OFFERED** Isaac – Trusting God  
**v.23** - By Faith – **Moses' parents HID** him  
**v.27** - By Faith – **Moses LEFT** the Land of Egypt  
**v.29** - By Faith – **Israel WALKED** thru the Red Sea  
**v.30** - By Faith – **The people MARCHED** around Jericho  
**v.31** - By Faith – **Rahab the Prostitute WELCOMED** the Spies

The **HALL of Fame** of **FAITH** – **IS** all about **ACTIONS TAKEN**  
**Not Just** - **TRUTHS BELIEVED**

**True FAITH** - is **ALWAYS** - **Displayed in Action**  
& **True FAITH** - **ALWAYS** - **Brings God Glory**

**BUT** – **Does True Faith** - - **ALWAYS End** in **Circumstances**  
**that we** would **CALL** – **PLEASANT**

**NO** . . . **True Faith** is **ALWAYS Displayed** in **ACTION**  
& **True Faith ALWAYS Brings God Glory** . . .

**BUT True Faith** - - **ALLOWS God to DECIDE**  
**The OUTCOME** of our **Circumstances**

**Consider The Rest of the Story - Hebrews 11:35–39 (NLT)**

***35 . . . But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. (THAT is True Faith)***

***36 Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons.***

***37 Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated.***

...

**39 All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith . . .**

**ALL these people – Brought GLORY to GOD – BY Their Faith**

**BOTH - Those who became BIBLE STORY HEROES –  
AND Those who were SAWN IN HALF**

**ALL of their Lives GLORIFIED GOD – BY Their FAITH  
REGARDLESS of the OUTCOME of their CIRCUMSTANCES**

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**IF our ULTIMATE GOAL in the Spiritual Battle  
is for our Lives to GLORIFY GOD**

**Then We can Leave the OUTCOME  
of our CIRCUMSTANCES - UP to God**

**The ONLY THING that is UP to US – is whether we will  
WALK by FAITH – REGARDLESS of the our CIRCUMSTANCES**

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**The Truth is – God uses even the most TRYING of Circumstances  
to GROW & REFINE our FAITH**

**& a FAITH that is Growing & Being Refined  
Will Bring God much PRAISE & HONOR & GLORY**

**Turn over 2 bks to right - 1 Peter 1:6–7 (NLT)**

***6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.***

***7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far***

**more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.**

**REGARDLESS of your Circumstances -  
Remember – Faith is an ACTION WORD**

**Faith is Taking ACTION on God's Promises  
Regardless of WHAT you FEEL or SEE**

**& THAT FAITH:**

**WILL Bring GLORY to GOD – IN the Heavenly Realm**

**& THAT FAITH – Will STOP DEAD  
ALL the Fiery Attacks of the Enemy**

**FAITH is the Confidence – That God's Truths in Your Life  
WILL Actually Happen**

**FAITH is the "Proof of Ownership" of God's Truths in Your Life  
that you CANNOT SEE**

**1 John 5:4 (NLT)**

***4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.***

**So – SEEK GOD –**

**To GROW, STRENGTHEN, & REFINE Your Faith**

**Because BY HOLDING UP that Shield of Faith  
WILL COME - Your VICTORY**

**Let's Pray**