

FIERY DARTS (Part 3)

Ephesians 6:16

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Notice, Paul is here admonishing us to QUENCH the fiery darts of the wicked one. What does this mean?

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The phrase “casting down” doesn’t just mean to “take down.” It means to “tear down” or completely demolish. This same is true of *quench*. To **quench** means to extinguish or completely put an end to something. It’s not enough to simply resist or block Satan’s attacks. They must be *extinguished*.

Proverbs 6:27

²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom, And his clothes not be burned?

This is a reminder that fire (or fiery darts) are a threat to ‘burn’ everything they touch. Therefore, if we block fiery darts but do not quench them, they can burn the area around us or even our shield (faith). If this happens, we may be forced to abandon the area we’re in, or worse, abandon our faith!

There are 3 ways to extinguish a fire. The method depends on the kind of fire it is.

CLASS A Fire

Examples: **Ordinary Materials** (wood, paper, fabric)

Extinguish: Deprive the fire of *heat* (**use water**)

CLASS B Fire

Examples: **Flammable Liquids** (gasoline, propane and grease)

Extinguish: Deprive the fire of *oxygen* (**smother with a blanket/lid**)

CLASS C Fire

Example: **Electrical Fires** (appliances, wiring)

Extinguish: Deprive the fire of *fuel* (**cut off all power**)

The reason I bring this up is because quenching fiery darts is like extinguishing a fire. This means, before we can quench Satan's fiery attacks, we must determine what kind of attack it is. This will determine what method we need to use to quench or extinguish it. (Not every attack can be extinguished the same way!)

CLASS A Attack

Example: *Torment* and *Temptation* from the devil.

The reason I'm calling *temptations* and *torment* from the devil a "Class A" attack is because you quench this attack the same way you extinguish a "Class A" fire—by introducing water (or the word of God)!

Matthew 4:3–4

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Notice how Jesus resisted Satan's temptations (Class A attacks), with the word! (Note: This includes "speaking" the word AND "obeying" it.)

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Now, not all attacks are "Class A" attacks. Sometimes the devil will bring a...

CLASS B Attack

Examples: *Persecution* and *Offense* from others.

1 Peter 4:12, 14

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

To "reproach" means *to speak evil of someone* (to insult or dishonor them). Thus, a "Class B" attacks will typically involve a *third* party. Moreover, you can't quench "Class B" attacks the same way you quench "Class A" attacks. If you do, you can make things worse!

James 5:6–9

⁶ Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. ⁷ Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. ⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. ⁹ Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Notice, James admonishes believers not to “grudge” (i.e. complain, express displeasure) over being mistreated by ungodly men. Again, responding to such an attack with words can actually make things worse!

For one, it can bring you into judgement for murmuring. Second, it could keep those who are mistreating you from being converted. So, if you want to quench a “Class B” attack, it’s best not to use *words* (water) on the flames. Instead, you should try *smothering* them with love!

1 Peter 4:8–9

⁸ And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. ⁹ Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Notice, love covers (or “smothers”) a multitude of sins! Therefore, when someone attacks you, the best way to extinguish the flames is to use love or hospitality! (“Overcome evil with good” –Romans 12:21)

You might ask, “What if you show love, but the flames still won’t go out?” Well, my first question to you is, “Are you using FERVENT charity?”

1 Peter 4:8

⁸ And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves...

The word “fervent” means *to do ALL you can*. Now, if you’ve don all you can and the flames still haven’t gone out, you may be left with only one option...

Romans 12:18

¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Notice, Paul admits that *sometimes* it’s just not possible to live peaceably with men. In that case, it’s probably best to separate or just walk away. (There’s a reason why fire extinguishers are mounted next to exits—to allow you a way to escape if it doesn’t work!)

CLASS C Attack

Examples: *Error* or *Deception* from false teachers.

First, do not try to quench a “Class C” attack with *water* (or words)!

Genesis 3:1–3

¹ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

(The woman went wrong when she tried to dialogue with the serpent. Never talk to snakes, especially when they are trying to bring false doctrine or teaching.)

Also, do not try to quench a “Class C” attack with *hospitality*!

2 John 10–11

¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹ for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Instead, you quench a “Class C” attack the same way you extinguish a “Class C” fire—by removing the fuel source!

Romans 16:17

¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

I’ve seen it happen many times when someone notices that the person they are with or listening to is straying from the truth. Instead of separating from them, they ignore it or decide they will simply overlook this one point. However, if someone is deliberately turning from what you know is the truth, they will eventually cause you to err!