

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.



The Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:10-18

11/3/2019

PUTTING ON THE ARMOR

- In Christ, you have power over sin and evil, but you have to **ACT** like you do. (*Eph. 1:3, 2:6, 2 Peter 1:3, Romans 6:11-14*)

SHIELDS AND ARROWS

- The flaming arrows of the enemy are most often **SUFFERING** and **TRIALS**. (*1 Peter 4:12, Isaiah 43:2*)
1. Suffering rarely leaves you the same: either you move **FARTHER** from God and people, or you move **TOWARD** them.
 2. Using the shield of faith means to look at **GOD** and not **YOURSELF**.
 3. **Job** suffered when the great and wonderful things he **HAD** were **TAKEN** away from him.
 4. **Peter** suffered when the great and wonderful things he **DREAMED** of having were **TAKEN** away from him.

GOD AND SUFFERING

1. God **ALLOWS** Satan to send us fiery trials and suffering.
 - Understand God as a **REFINER**.
 - Understand God as a **VINEDRESSER**.
 - Understand God as a **FATHER**.
2. We should expect flaming arrows when we're doing something **GREAT** for God.
3. Faith isn't a **PASSIVE** thing; it's an **ACTIVE** thing.

PICK UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Faith is looking at what God has **SAID**; at what Jesus has **DONE**; at what the Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS**.



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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Read Ephesians 6:16-18.**

How is the shield of faith different from the other pieces in the armor, and under what circumstances in your life could you imagine needing to use it?

3. **What do you learn about God, about Satan, or about yourself when you see that God allows Satan to send us fiery trials and suffering?**

GETTING PERSONAL

4. **When you think about God's role and purposes as *REFINER*, *VINEDRESSER*, and *FATHER*, how does that help you understand his presence and role in your life when you are experiencing trials and suffering?**

5. **2 Corinthians 5:7 says - *For we live by faith, not by sight.*** This doesn't mean we ignore what we see... but that what is MORE important is God and what he's up to... what we can't always see.

What can you do in your life now to *SEE* rightly, using the shield of Faith?

BRINGING IT HOME

6. **How have you experienced Satan's opposition as you are serving God, serving others, and growing in grace and obedience? How should this inform what you do the NEXT time you experience this?**

7. **What is one way you'd like to take action based on this week's sermon?**

Or...

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

PRAY TOGETHER