

Take Up Your Shield

8/30/2026

The Armor of God

- Ephesians 6:10-17 – 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.

Take Up Your Shield

- Ephesians 6:16 – ...take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- “flaming arrows” = Greeks and Romans (and others as well) would sometimes cover their arrows with a flammable substance and then light them on fire before firing them at the enemy... Or they had hollow arrows they would fill with fuel
- “shield” = *thureos* = This word comes from the Greek word for “door” and gives you an idea of what this shield was like
 - Romans had 2 kinds of shields:
 - 1) a small-ish, circular shield used to deflect spears, javelins, and swords
 - 2) a large, heavy, curved oblong meant to be planted on the ground like a portable personal barricade of sorts
 - *Thureos* refers to this one
 - The Romans called it a *scutum*
 - 2 ft wide x 4 ft high
 - Weighing about 20 lbs
 - Made from overlapping laminated layers of wood (like plywood)
 - Covered in thick leather, thick enough that flaming arrows won't necessarily burn the wood beneath
- The Enemy Attacks with Flaming Arrows
 - Many times, the Enemy attacks not with some giant attack but with a thousand little arrows launched in your direction
 - Psalm 64:3-4 – 3 They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows. 4 They shoot from ambush at the innocent; they shoot suddenly, without fear.
- Not Just Defensive
 - Paul says that with the shield of faith you can “extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”
 - With the shield of faith, you don't just defend yourself from getting hit – you actually put the fire out
- “Take up the shield of faith”
 - 1) Active Form of the Verb
 - The subject is actively doing the verb; it's not being done to them.
 - God won't take up your shield for you, your shield won't take itself up, you don't just automatically have a shield up at all times... You need to actively take up your shield of faith so you won't get taken out by the flaming arrows.
 - 2) Connected with Standing Firm

- This phrase literally means “having taken up the shield of faith” and grammatically cannot be the beginning of the sentence but is the end of one long run-on sentence that began at vs. 14 with “Stand firm then”
- More appropriate translation: “Stand firm then... having taken up the shield of faith”
- What does this mean? It means that standing firm in the kingdom of God is related to taking up the shield of faith
- 1 Peter 1:3-5 – 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
- Hebrews 11:6 says that “without faith it is impossible to please God”

Faith is Not Easy

- It’s easy to lack faith, easy to slip into negativity, unbelief, pessimism, complaining, whining, grumbling, criticism, depression
 - It’s hard to stand in faith

Consequences to Not Walking in Faith

- But there are consequences to not walking in faith
 - You’ll get hit by more arrows and those arrows hurt

How Do You Take Up Your Shield of Faith?

- 1) Recognize that You’ve Set your Shield Down
 - Some of us need to recognize that we haven’t been taking up our shield
 - Are Your Thoughts a Problem?
 - Proverbs 23:6-8 – 6 Do not eat the bread of a selfish person or desire his delicacies; 7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you. 8 You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten and waste your compliments.
 - What you think inside, that’s the type of person you are
 - Are You Getting Wounded?
 - Another sign that you’ve set your shield down is if you’re getting hit by the Enemy’s flaming arrows
- 2) Choose to Trust in God’s Faithfulness
 - Psalm 91:4 – He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
 - Walking in faith simply means trusting in God’s faithfulness
- 3) Think About the Good
 - Proverbs 23:7 says that “as he thinks within himself, so he is”
 - So if you want to change who you are from being easy prey for the flaming arrows, change how you think
 - Philippians 4:8 – Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.
- 4) Speak the Truth
 - Luke 6:45 – A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
 - Instead of speaking out negativity, unbelief, doubt, cynicism, hurt, complaining, criticism, etc., begin to speak in faith, that God is good and faithful

If You Don't Take Your Shield of Faith, We All Suffer

- The Faithless Spies (Numbers 13-14)
 - The faithlessness of 10 spies hurt the entire populace of 600,000 Israelites
 - Israel had to wander in the wilderness for the next 40 years, and none of them entered the Promised Land except Joshua and Caleb
 - Even Joshua and Caleb, who stood in faith, had to wait 40 more years to enter in