



Ephesians 6:16 "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one"

I. The _____ of the Shield

II. The _____ of the Darts

A. The _____ of the Strike

B. The _____ of the Enemy

III. The Defense of _____

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

A. The First _____ of Faith

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

2 Corinthians 5:7 "for we walk by faith, not by sight."

Habakkuk 2:4b "the righteous shall live by his faith."

Romans 1:17 "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" (Cf. Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)

Habakkuk 3:17 "Even if the fig tree does not blossom, and there is no fruit on the vines, if the yield of the olive fails, and the fields produce no food, even if the flock disappears from the fold, and there are no cattle in the stalls" (NASB)

Habakkuk 3:18-19 "Yet I will triumph in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and He has made my feet like deer's feet, and has me walk on my high places." (NASB)

B. Faith Shields Your _____

Psalms 18:35 "You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great."

Psalms 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." (NIV)

1 John 5:4 "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

Genesis 15:1 "After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: 'Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'"

Deuteronomy 33:29a "Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help, and the sword of your triumph!"

2 Samuel 22:31 "This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."

Psalms 3:3 "But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head."

Psalms 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him."

Psalms 18:1-2 "I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

Psalms 84:11a "For the Lord God is a sun and shield"

Psalms 119:114 "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word."

C. Lift Your Shield _____

Ephesians 6:16a "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith"

D. Lock Shields With _____

Philippians 1:27b "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"

E. _____ Your Shield

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Matthew 17:17-19 "And Jesus answered, 'O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?'"

Matthew 17:20 "He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.'"



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BACKGROUND:

Paul continues to encourage us to put on the full armor of God by stating, "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one." (*Ephesians 6:16*) We have been learning how each piece of God's armor serves a specific purpose and the shield of faith is no different. The shield of a Roman soldier was often made of wood and covered with hide, which when wet could extinguish a flaming arrow. A believer's faith is constantly under attack from Satan, the world, and their own sinful nature. One's faith, when exercised, protects them from such attack.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Verse 16 begins with the phrase "In all circumstances". All circumstances would include the good as well as the bad.

1. Why might Paul encourage us to raise our shields in good times?
2. Does your faith vary as you move back and forth between easy and challenging times?
3. What do you need to be protected from?

In today's warfare there are many types of long-range missiles. Unmanned drones can drop bombs with amazing accuracy. The long-range method of attack during Paul's time would have been arrows launched by archers hundreds of yards away. The use of a shield was vital under such attack.

4. What are flaming darts of the evil one in your life or towards you?
5. What does it look like in your life "to take up the shield"?
6. What is it that can extinguish the flaming darts that come your way?

Faith is a gift from God. But we are responsible to exercise the faith He gives us. There are many aspects to faith. Take the time to read each of the following verses and discuss the ones that are most impactful to your personal faith:

- Romans 10:17
- Romans 5:1-5
- Romans 10:9-10
- Luke 17:6
- 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Ephesians 6:16
- 2 Timothy 2:13
- 1 John 5:4
- Hebrews 11:1
- Hebrews 11:6

TAKING IT HOME:

As we battle the world, the evil one, and our own sinful nature we find it necessary to know God, His Word, and abide in Him. He is our shield. He is our fortress. He remains faithful even when we're not.

7. What are some of the challenges you faced with your faith? How did you respond?
8. How has your knowledge of God increased your faith?
9. How do you demonstrate your faith to others?