

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV)

- ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.
¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Remember a few things with this warfare:

- **WE ARE AT WAR** - it isn't a war of natural means or happening in this realm to take things or people from you, this war is about your faith and is going on for the purpose of you to give up on God
- **WE HAVE AN ENEMY** - the bible calls him the devil and the enemy of our soul. He hates us and desires to steal, kill, and destroy your faith with whatever means he can.
- **HE HAS A STRUCTURE** - found in this passage, it is a structure comprised of fallen angels and demon spirits and they do whatever they can to bring discouragement and stand in the way of the plan and will of God.
- **WE ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE** - we are to engage our enemy but the fight is the part that must be done correctly. We show up, God will show off.

Let me brush you up on the other pieces and then we will address this one:

- **The Helmet of Salvation** - this is the protection of the mind and the engagement of the thought life
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness** - this is the creation of protection of proper desires in the heart
- **The Loins Girt with Truth** - this is the replication of Christians and discipleship of them as well. As you help them fight their battles, yours are waged by God.
- **Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace** - this is the witness that we give others as a Christians. What others see from us is what they expect of God.

And tonight, we will add THE SHIELD OF FAITH.

THE SHIELD

Shields became important to the battle as time would go on in history. When warriors realized that they could build something light enough to carry on their arm that would protect them from attack and that they could hide behind from harm, they found that injury and even death was less likely when used. Shields would take many shapes and sizes throughout the years but one thing is for sure, the stronger it was, the better it was.

And the same is for the shield spoken of in the text tonight.

This shield is what we learn to hide behind through life. **And by hiding I don't mean running or fearing what we face, I am saying that this shield is where we go to protect ourselves from the attack of the enemy.**

This is what we are told in the passage:

Ephesians 6:16 (KJV)

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

The fiery darts of the wicked are what we are protecting ourselves from. Satan and the kingdom that we have heard about in this study is going to attack. These attacks don't surprise the Lord but all too often they surprise a believer. **And when a believer doesn't know what to do when an attack comes, they are often exposed to these fiery darts or arrows, and are hit by them as they don't understand the principle behind this portion of spiritual warfare.**

What do these fiery darts represent?

They could be many things. **Imaginations, thoughts, use of others in your life to hurt you, depression, doubt, sickness, temptation, etc.**

Remember that the fiery darts are used to immediately impact you and harm you.

So, the shield comes in to protect you from them. **The other parts of the armor to this point were protective measures for your body and they trained your soul, spirit, and activity, the shield is a direct response to the harm attempted by the enemy.**

So, I don't know the exact attack for you because it will be tailored to you, your personality, and your faith.

That is what your enemy does. He picks things according to you and how you're made.

So, when one learns the ability to stand behind this shield first and trust it, things shift in their lives.

And the bible talks a lot about a shield:

Genesis 15:1 (KJV)

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward.

The word for shield here in Hebrew means: ***Protector, buckler, armor bearer, and scaly hide of a crocodile.***

David said the following:

2 Samuel 22:3 (KJV)

³ The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

Psalms 3:3 (KJV)

³ But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 5:12 (KJV)

¹² For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield.

Psalms 28:7 (KJV)

⁷ The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalms 33:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he *is* our help and our shield.

Psalms 84:11 (KJV)

¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalms 115:11 (KJV)

¹¹ Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he *is* their help and their shield.

Psalms 119:114 (KJV)

¹¹⁴ Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Proverbs 30:5 (KJV)

⁵ Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

And there are more than this in scripture, but we see the principle behind this with spiritual warfare. The child of God is to trust in the protection of God and stand behind Him through attacks and believe Him to be their protector.

This shield represents trust in God.

To serve Him and know Him we must trust Him.

Trust means that we may not get the plan from Him or understand what He is doing, but we learn to go to Him first in all things and trust that whatever He may be doing, that it is going to be ok. That is trust.

What I have learned personally is that when my trust is placed somewhere else, it fails and those fiery darts hit me and they hurt.

I have also learned that if I choose to defend myself instead of trusting the protection of the Lord, that He will get out of the way and let me learn a difficult lesson.

But the shield is defined just as all the other elements given to us for spiritual warfare, and it is specified to be faith that protects us.

FAITH

Faith is defined in scripture:

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

So, faith is one-part belief in God and a second part evidence in that belief.

Faith as used here in the Greek is defined as follows: *persuasion, credence; moral conviction, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstract constancy in such profession; assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.*

So, the shield is to be what we believe about God.

This chapter goes on to say the following about faith:

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

So, **faith is necessary with God not optional**. We need to get that today because I have observed in years of ministry that believers operate by faith and trust in God as an option and as a secondary means in their lives and then they end up confused when God doesn't move.

But why would God move for you if you don't come to Him first and believe Him?

So, the faith spoken of here is the faith to believe God for what you are facing, or the fiery darts from the wicked.

Then there is a list of believers that are commended for their faith and listen to what that sounded like in their respective situations here in [Hebrews 11](#):

- Abel showed us faith's worship
- Enoch showed us faith's walk
- Noah showed us faith's work
- Abraham showed us faith's obedience
- Sarah showed us faith's reckoning
- Abraham showed us faith's test
- Isaac showed us faith's prosperity
- Jacob showed us faith's generational blessing
- Joseph showed us faith's authority
- Moses's parents showed us faith's discernment
- Moses showed us faith's declaration
- Moses showed us faith's courage
- Moses showed us faith's protection
- Israel showed us faith's preservation
- Israel showed us faith's miraculous power
- Rahab showed us faith's deliverance
- Gideon showed us faith's victory
- Barak showed us faith's triumph
- Samson showed us faith's physical strength
- Jephthah showed us faith's boldness
- David showed us faith's trust
- Samuel showed us faith's integrity

And the list goes on and on throughout scripture on what faith does in our lives and how it is brought about and grows.

The fact is tonight though, faith is required by God and is honored by God.

So why don't more believers stand behind the shield of faith and not get hurt by these fiery darts?

I think it is because the Lord is their secondary means of HELP instead of their primary means of HOPE.

So, He has become to many, a FALLBACK instead of a FIRSTFRUIT.

The promise is sure, that if we stand behind the shield of faith that God will take care of us. Listen to the results of faith as it ended the chapter in [Hebrews 11](#):

Hebrews 11:33-38 (KJV)

³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

³⁶ And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

Faith will carry you through anything. And to war a good warfare, we must stand behind the shield of faith.

To sum it up tonight, **the shield of faith to the believer is the ability to go to God first in anything that they face and stand behind Him and no matter what they see going on around them, they must trust and believe that God is going to work it out in their favor for His glory.**