

When Under Attack (Part 1)

Ephesians 6:13-20

IF the house were on fire, what would you grab? What are the three most important things you would want to take with you.

ABOVE ALL:

This is not a statement that diminishes everything that preceded it but elevates and intensifies the importance of what follows. (verses 16 & 17)

The weaponry

- Shield
- Helmet
- Sword

You can almost envision a surprise attack, grab and go!

The element of our walk with Christ

- Faith
- Salvation
- The Word of God

ABOVE ALL

Shield of Faith (16)

Let's look at what it does and then what it is.

Fiery Darts – a dart, arrow, or javelin, dipped in a kerosene type substance set ablaze and thrown or catapulted through the air.

- Seemingly stealthy
- They often show up unannounced
- Hit and burn... instant impact, lasting burn.

Fiery Darts – Explained

Anything that infiltrates our thought life and produces:

- **Agitation** – *intentional or innocent conflict*
- **Temptation** – *lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life.*

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.

- **Distractions** – *hobbies and pursuits that consume you.*
- **Discouragements** – *hope deferred makes the heart sick.*

Proverbs 13:12a Hope deferred makes the heart sick

- Worn out so you do dumb – what you normally would never. (the burn)

- **Doubts** – **Will it be this way forever? Will I be this way forever?**

Does God really exist (Genesis 1)

Do all things really work together for good? (Romans 8:28)

God loves but does God love me? (John 3:16)

God has a plan but does He have a plan for me? (Jeremiah 29:11)

God forgives, but does God forgive me? (1 John 1:9)

QUENCH: To extinguish...

To be as effective as throwing sand at a mountain or trying to light a lake on fire.

HOW DO YOU BLOCK FIERY DARTS YOU CANNOT SEE?

WITH A SHIELD YOU CANNOT FEEL - FAITH

Faith does not happen to you...

It is a description of a decision that was made within you.

DEFAULT TO WHAT YOU DO KNOW!

He is a loving father who will not forsake me, a forgiving Savior, a perfect provider, the King above all kings, THE creator sustainer ruler and judge of all things. His thoughts are higher than my thoughts and His ways are higher than my ways – that He will give wisdom and will finish the work that He has started in me.

To take up the shield is to take up The Attitude of **Job 1:21-22**

The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.” In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Substance of things hoped for (not wished for) (Hoped for – you know are coming)
Evidence: what is proved by testing.

Faith honors God and God honors faith!
Robert & Mary - Botswana

Faith – a deep conviction of truth.

Since you are saved by faith... continue in faith.

Some of us struggle with faith because we will not surrender.

Will you trust God to work it out the way HE want's to?

Work what out? YES!

When a parent who deeply loves their child, does not do what their child wants, there is a reason. Discipline, work ethic, relationship, etc.

Faith – there are some things that will not make sense until heaven but in heaven they will make perfect sense.

“My grace is sufficient for you”

Helmet of Salvation (17a)

Always know - that you are a child of God - all the time.

The **shield** is when we default to what we know **OF** God.

The **helmet** has to do with who we are **IN** Christ.

Helmets where for **protection** and **identification**.

Roman warrior or on the football field of today, protection and identification.

NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Some of you made a mess of your life before you came to faith in Christ

BUT WHAT ON EARTH does that have to do with who you are in Christ today?!

Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

2008 Big Ten Indoor Track Championship

Heather Dorniden wins 600m race with only 1 lap left

Angels rejoice in heaven when one sinner repents and gives their life to Christ.

More than a conqueror in Christ – Soldiers do not worry about civilian issues

2 Timothy 2:3-4 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE!!!

Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Does a child of God belong in the place that you are about to go?

Does a child of God do what you are about to do?

Don't argue or justify... yes or no.

BURN THE SHIPS

Hernán Cortés – 1519

Cuba across the Gulf of Mexico to the coastline of Mexico itself (Aztec)

Psalm 62:6-8 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. SELAH

At the very end of the day... I am a child of God

At the very end of the day, it is not by works but by the work of Christ on the cross

TAKE UP – to carry with intent to use, to take a thing in order to use it, to rise up.

Christ took upon Himself our sins that we may have a new life.

Take up the new life and walk in it – not burdened by a holy life, freed to live holy.