



PREPARING FOR BATTLE

“The Shield of Faith” | Pastor Joe Yoshihara | March 8, 2026

Ephesians 6:10-16

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,



Ephesians 6:10-16

against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,



Ephesians 6:10-16

and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.



Ephesians 6:10-16

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



Leader: **The Word of the Lord**
Congregation: **Amen! Praise be to God!**



Ephesians 6:16

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the **flaming darts** of the evil one;



Two Categories of Flaming Arrows

1. The Flaming Arrows of **Temptation**



Ephesians 4:26-31

²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your **anger**, ²⁷ and give no **opportunity** to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer **steal**, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone



Ephesians 4:26-31

in need. ²⁹ Let no **corrupting talk** come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



Ephesians 4:26-31

³¹ Let all **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be put away from you, along with all **malice**.



Two Categories of Flaming Arrows

1. The Flaming Arrows of **Temptation**
2. The Flaming Arrows of **Hardships**



2 Corinthians 4:5-9

⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



2 Corinthians 4:5-9

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are **afflicted** in every way, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not driven to despair; ⁹ **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed;



2 Corinthians 4:13-14

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.



2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our **outer self is wasting away**, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,



2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



The Hardship

- Affliction
- Perplexed
- Persecuted
- Struck Down
- Outer Self
Wasting Away

The Hardship

- Affliction
- Perplexed
- Persecuted
- Struck Down
- Outer Self
Wasting Away

The Impact of Faith

- Not Crushed
- Not Driven to Despair
- Not Forsaken
- Not Destroyed
- Inner Self Renewed

Faith's Focus

Faith sees beyond the present into eternity



2 Corinthians 4:13-14

¹³ Since we have the same **spirit of faith** according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that **he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.**



2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For this **light momentary** affliction is preparing for us an **eternal** weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are **transient**, but the things that are unseen are **eternal**.



Faith's Focus

Faith must be wed to **treasuring** Jesus
Christ



2 Corinthians 4:7

⁷ But we have **this treasure** in jars of clay.



Application

1. For those experiencing flaming arrows, keep your eyes on eternity.
2. Wed your faith to treasuring Christ Jesus above everything else.

