

The Shield of Faith

Intro

- **We are continuing our study through Eph 6:10-17 to understand...**
 - How to operate in God's strength, rather than our own
- **Today we're talking about what it means to take up the Shield of Faith**

Today's Scripture

Ephesians 6:16 CSB

¹⁶ In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

- **So faith acts as a shield against the attacks of the enemy**
 - But what kinds of attacks does the enemy use?

Our common problem...

- **We want certainty – We prefer a guarantee over having to trust someone**
 - Because we are accustomed to the unreliability of the world
 - Because we have been hurt
 - Because there is so much we can't see and predict
- **Our desire for certainty, and fear of not having it, is easy to exploit**
 - Our natural fear and anxiety creates doubts

- Our spiritual enemy amplifies and stirs up doubt
 - *He echoes our fear back to us*
 - *He questions what God has said*
 - *He twists what God has said*
- **The devil's primary attacks, come in the form of undermining confidence...**
 - in what God has said
 - in what God has done
 - in what we can trust God to do
 - **From the beginning, the enemy has tried to twist and undermine what God has said** Genesis 3:1-5 *"Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. 3 But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.' " 4 "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'"*
 - **Remember what Jesus said about Satan in** John 8:44 *"...there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies."*

What is faith?

- **Faith means: A choice to trust God without the need to understand or see everything**
 - It is not blind – it is based on:
 - God's word
 - God's character
 - Our experience with God
 - The inner confidence given by the Holy Spirit

Faith is an effective shield against the attacks of the enemy because

- Faith means you **let go of needing to feel the kind of certainty** that the devil is trying to ***exploit***
- You have **confidence in God's character**, *rather than in a guarantee* of exactly **what He will do** next

How do you “take up the Shield of Faith”?

- You reject the need for certainty
- Trust in God beyond what you can see and understand
- Stop engaging in conversation with the enemy

Today's challenge

- **In what areas of your life, have you been entertaining the words of the enemy?**

- Answering these questions may help you see where you've been listening to the enemy
 - *Where do you feel hopeless?*
 - *In what ways are you questioning God?*
 - *In what areas of life do you see yourself as a victim?*
 - *In what areas of life are you bitter and resentful?*
- **Learn to respond to the enemy by pointing to God – His work, His words, and His character**

If we learn to reject the need for certainty and trust in God

- We will have more stability in our thought life
- Actually have a clearer picture of where we are heading

REFLECT

Let's take a moment to pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our attention and lead our conversation, helping us see and understand what He wants us to apply in our lives.

APPLY

Process the passage together with these questions:

- How does our personal need for absolute certainty make us vulnerable to spiritual attacks?

- What does it look like practically to "stop entertaining conversation" with the enemy?
- What is one area of your life where you need to release your need for control and pick up the shield of faith this week?

Where we want to "land the plane"

- We often crave certainty and control, but the enemy uses that deep-seated desire to plant doubt, fear, and lies in our minds. To effectively take up the Shield of Faith, we must be willing to let go of our demand to understand every detail and instead choose to rely on God's proven character. By refusing to entertain the enemy's lies and choosing to trust who God is, we can extinguish the "flaming darts" intended to destroy us. This shift from seeking guarantees to seeking God is what provides true spiritual stability.