

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ryland Walter | August 13-14, 2022

Week 5: God's Faithfulness in Your Dark Days

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:16 (NIV)

How faith becomes weak:

- Lack of _____
- Poor lifestyle/morality _____
- Unexplainable _____
- Misunderstanding of biblical _____

1. What is faith?

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Faith is trusting God's _____

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God...

Hebrews 11:7 (NLT)

[Sarah] believed that God would keep his promise.

Hebrews 11:11b (NLT)

She considered him faithful who had made the promise.

Hebrews 11:11b (NIV)

*Faith is basing my life on the truth
that God is who he says he is
and that he'll do what he's promised to do.*

2. How does faith protect me?

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 (ESV)

Faith _____ satan's flaming darts

Doubt... Division... Discouragement... Deception... Distraction...

3. How do I take up the shield of faith?

WARNING: Beware of do-it-yourself faith.

We believe because Jesus walked on this earth, claimed to be God, gave us a ton of evidence supporting His claim, died for our sin, rose from the dead and went back to heaven in front of hundreds of witnesses.

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Hebrews 4:14 (NIV)

Focus on God's _____

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful,

for he cannot deny who he is.

2 Timothy 2:13 (NLT)

The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NLT)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

1 Peter 1:21 (NLT)

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- Lack of interest
- Poor lifestyle/morality choices
- Unexplainable tragedy
- Misunderstanding of biblical faith

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Faith extinguishes satan's flaming darts

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GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN YOUR DARK DAYS
Talk-it-Over Notes | August 13-14, 2022

REVIEW IT

Faith is not a formula. Faith is trusting God's promises. Great people of faith are great people of faith because they're basing their life on the truth that God is who he says he is, and that he'll do what he's promised to do. Believing God's promises extinguishes the enemies flaming darts of doubt, division, discouragement, deception and distraction.

It would seem that to increase our faith we should just pray for more or try to find ways to increase our faith. A better strategy, however, is to focus on God's faithfulness. God is faithful, and that will grow our faith.

Spend some time in the word... **Read Hebrews chapter 11**

TALK ABOUT IT

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- What has God used lately to encourage your faith?
- "It's important to not let your faith be destroyed by something that God has not promised." What does that statement mean to you? Do you know anyone who has given up faith because they had a misunderstanding of what it is?
- How does faith shield us from the enemies flaming arrows.

ACT ON IT

What are some of God's promises? Brainstorm some verses, look them up in your Bible or online and believe God for these promises.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time to ask how you can pray for and support one another this week.