

“The Shield of Faith”

¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

When Paul wrote here about spiritual armor his readers would have pictured a Roman soldier. The shield a Roman soldier would carry would have been about four feet in length, longer or shorter, depending on the height of the carrier. It was curved to wrap around the soldier to protect his sides. It was made of wood or light metal and bound by metal. Covered with leather and soaked in water so that it could extinguish fiery darts.

I. Note the words, “above all” which show us how important “faith” is both in our Christian walks in general and our battles with Satan - **¹⁶ above all, ... Ephesians 6:16**

All of these pieces of armor are important and necessary but none more important than faith –

1. True Godly Faith is needed in spiritual battle because it connects us to God and His power –

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)

A. God Himself is our true shield –

¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

¹² O LORD of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You! Psalm 84:11–12 (NKJV)

B. Blessing (happiness) comes from trusting in God ↑

2. Trusting in God means having faith in Christ and His cross –

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

A. *This is important to remember because the Devil would be a disturber of the peace, we have with God.*

B. *He first tempts us with sin, and when we fall, he accuses us of sin, we overcome him not with our own righteousness but with the blood of the Lamb –*

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

3. *It is by faith we succeed –*

... you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

A. *We overcome the stupid lie(s) of evolution, we “understand” –*

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV)

- Note “understanding” is involved here, not blind faith!
- Science is on the side of faith in God, an Intelligent Creator

B. *By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice, by faith we are correct in our worship and service –*

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV)

C. *By faith like Enoch, we live –*

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. Hebrews 11:5 (NKJV)

⁴ “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:15 (NKJV)

D. By faith we please God –

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

II. Beware of grabbing a FAKE shield, faith must be faith in God / in Christ –

¹¹ Give us help from trouble, For the help of man *is* useless. ¹² Through God we will do valiantly, For *it is* He *who* shall tread down our enemies. Psalm 60:11–12 (NKJV)

1. Beware of putting faith in men, that is what Israel did when they insisted on a king and put their faith in TALL SAUL, Tall handsome Saul ...

² And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward *he was* taller than any of the people. 1 Samuel 9:2 (NKJV)

2. Beware of trusting yourself, your own understanding –

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. Proverbs 3:5–7 (NKJV)

3. Beware of trusting in your will or so called “free will” –

A. God says –

²² “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other. Isaiah 45:22 (NKJV)

B. *The free-willer says, I cannot simply look up to God and be saved, I need to first look within to my free from sin will, he / it will / must make the right decision or God cannot save me! My free will makes me better before God than someone else who makes wrong choices, I am saved by my right CHOICE(s) -*

¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. Romans 9:16 (NKJV)

4. *Beware of faith in FAITH -*

Note - **Ephesians 6:10** (NKJV) tells us -

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. *Faith in faith twists good teaching and makes it BAD! Faith in Faith makes God dependent upon YOU / or us ...*

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, let the Lord be strong in the power of Your Faith. Ephesians 6:10 Stupid Distorted Version

What faith in faith wrongly implies:

A. *That God and Satan are in some sense equals.*

B. *That faith is something we have apart from God, not a gift of or from God –*
⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

C. *That our faith strengthens God, so He can do His will which is always our physical health and material prosperity –*

*“I have more money than you because I have more faith than you do!”
Elder Eldon Sparrow talking to me Arnold Brevick*

Lack of faith to Jesus is like kryptonite to Superman, if we don't have faith in Christ, Satan is going to win, Satan can tie up and torture Jesus forever if we do not help Him with our faith, Jesus can do NOTHING –

Actual Truth –

⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)

III. It is significant that in this spiritual warfare passage faith is compared to a shield and not a foxhole –

... taking the shield of faith... Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

1. A shield is a defensive weapon, a protection, but it is also a weapon a person carries into battle, God is our Shield – Psalm 84:11, but He is also our hiding place –

**⁷ You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Psalm 32:7 (NKJV)
Selah**

2. The other weapons listed here show that God involves us in spiritual warfare –

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)

3. We should carry this shield of faith wherever we go –

A. Goliath came against David with not only a shield but a shield bearer ...

B. David's only shield was his faith –

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.” 1 Samuel 17:45–47 (NKJV)

C. *God and not weapons if Who and what David trusted –*

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 (NKJV)

- *A multitude of chariots and horses were the strengths of most armies in those days.*
- *Today it is often the same.*
- *Yet a nation would be wise to trust in God and live by His Law –*

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

³⁴ Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

4. The church's weapons are not carnal –

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:4–6 (NKJV)

Carnal Weapons

Spiritual Weapons

*Actual weapons, guns, tanks, swords, spears
righteousness*

Faith, prayer,

Money

God's provision

Advertising

Preaching, evangelism

Insurance

God's protection

It is not that we cannot use money or advertise, but we DEPEND upon God and show that dependence by prayer & faithful obedience to His Word.