



Wearing His Faith

Ephesians 6: The Armor of God and Spiritual Warfare

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Watch out there are deadly missiles headed your way!

Above the softness of our blue green planet there are hostile forces poised. They range across space lurking and flying about at their master's bidding. They are former angels. They are Satan the Dragon's army. They are deadly, vile, malignant and very intelligent. In fact, the word demon in Greek means "intelligence".

These aliens to our planet are highly skilled, incredibly powerful, usually invisible - warriors. They can hear us talk, they can pass through walls, they can fly through space, they inhabit human and animal bodies, they alter human behavior, they afflict humans with disease, anguish and turmoil.

These extra-terrestrial beings can take on various forms looking human, looking powerful, looking fearsome. They are watching over the realm of the serpent and his seed. You see, we saints of God are at war this morning. There is a conflict going on the likes of which most of us haven't fully comprehended. Swirling around us the unseen beings of the spirit world are locked in mortal combat. Behind the scenes in every boardroom, political planning session, military strategy session, classroom, worship service and everywhere else, these unseen spirits watch, listen and whisper their lies. It is the battle for the Earth that rages. The god of this world has dispatched his demon warriors with one target, blind the minds of earth's inhabitants until they can't see and won't follow - God !

What are their arrows? They shoot to deaden our senses, enflame our desires, deceive our minds, short circuit our consciences and deafen our ears to God's Word!

First, The ultimate shield of faith was modeled by Jesus

Does it work? Well let's go to see One who knew just how to use it and see Him win!

Please join me in [Matthew 4:1-11](#) and stand as we read about Jesus deflecting each of Satan's flaming missiles!!

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

A brief lesson on Christ's temptation

The SETTING was bad:

- Wilderness: Matthew and Luke 4 and Mark 1
- WITH WILD BEASTS [Mark 1:13](#) And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.
- 40 Days without food Mt 4;Lk 4

The OUTCOME was good. How unlike the 1st Adam is this last Adam.

- The Devil challenged the first man. The Last Man challenged the Devil.
- The Devil ruined the first Adam. The Last Adam spoiled the Devil.
- The First Adam involved the Race in his defeat. The Last Adam included the Race in His victory.
- The First Adam stood as the head of the race and falling, dragged the race down with him. The Last Adam stood as the Head of the new race, and being victorious, lifted that race with Him.

The AGENT was evil.

- Satan the Adversary, Devil and slanderer
- Lucifer fallen, the father of sin, lies, murder, death and hell.
- The very powerful King of Darkness.

The RECORD is Christ's personal Account.

It is so special because only He was there. The fact that we have it speaks to His personal desire that we have it to help us as we face the same adversary. May we likewise conquer in His power!

The Target of Satan's missiles was TEMPTATION.

In the Gospels we have Satan tempting Christ. The 40 days were filled with a spiritual struggle. The climax of Satan's attack is given in Matthew and Luke 4. In Matthew 4 we

have the chronological order.

TEMPTATION # 1

Physical Attack: APPETITE = The Desire to Enjoy

([Mt. 4:2-4](#); [Lk. 4:2-4](#); [I John 2:16](#) 'lust flesh')

In the Bread into stones temptation Satan attacks Christ at the point of submission to the will of God. Would Christ submit and obey the Father at all costs or not.

This attack was the temptation to satisfy a legitimate desire by illegitimate means. This is the whole realm of sensual things, drugs, alcohol. Trying to get what only God can give. Filling that God shaped vacuum in our lives with pleasure over worship.

THE ANSWER: [Deuteronomy 8:3](#) "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

THE TEMPTATION # 2

Mental Attack: AMBITION = The Desire to Achieve

[Mt. 4:5-6](#); [Lk. 4:9-11](#); [I John 2:16](#) 'pride of life'

In the jump temptation the Devil was attacking Christ and His reliance upon God and His timing. Stunts, dazzling displays and presumption are all contrary to God's plan.

This attack was, according to J. Oswald Sanders, the temptation to produce spiritual results in an unspiritual way. This is the whole realm of rivalry, externalism, pride, haughtiness and self-reliance.

THE ANSWER: [Deuteronomy 6:16](#) "You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

THE TEMPTATION # 3

Spiritual Attack: AVARICE = The Desire to Obtain

[Mt 4:8-11](#); [Lk 4:5-7](#); [I John 2:16](#) 'lust of eyes'

In the bow down temptation the Devil was offering the possibility of Christ circumventing the Cross and Calvary. This was the escape pain and suffering route.

Again this was the temptation to obtain a godly heritage in an ungodly way! This is the whole realm of materialism, greed, possessiveness, trust in riches and worldliness.

THE ANSWER: [Deuteronomy 6:13](#) "You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. As Augustine said: "We all have a god and we look more like who or whatever it is every day."

Lessons Jesus taught us

- Simple : Christ used a simple method when facing temptation. His response was not clever, novel or sophisticated. Even a child could understand exactly what He said.
- Scriptural : Christ used a scriptural method when facing temptation: For each temptation He had discovered an appropriate Scripture. For each temptation He quoted an appropriate Scripture.

Christ's victorious match with Satan means:

- In relation to Christ = TOTAL TRIUMPH He is absolutely seen as pure and empowered by the Spirit. He goes on in ministry enabled and strengthened.
- In relation to Satan =TOTAL DEFEAT he is absolutely exposed as being in line for his final defeat and destruction in the lake of fire forever.
- In relation to Believers = TOTAL ASSURANCE because Jesus met and conquered Satan, through Jesus we are more than conquerors. No temptation but God is able to give us an exit!

Our Lord Jesus Christ used the shield of the Word of God to stop all of Satan's fiery missiles aimed at Him from any direction.. So we see Jesus demonstrating that the shield of faith is taking God at His Word, and consistently applying the Word to our life. Keep and obey His Word!

Back to Ephesians 6. In verses 14-17 is a list of the combat equipment that the Holy Spirit issues to every believer at the moment of salvation. By faith and obedient experience:

- We wear his Truth
- We wear his Righteousness
- We wear his Peace
- We wear his Faith
- We wear his Salvation
- We wear his Word

What is our armor?

- **Belt of Truth** . To the Christian soldier a belt of truth means "honesty," "truthfulness," "integrity," and "sincerity" surround every part of our life. Warning: Dishonesty brings defeat!.
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** . To the Christian soldier this means a pursuit of personal, daily righteousness. We learn this can only be maintained by confession and repentance of sin. Warning: Impurity will bring defeat!.
- **Shoes of Peace** . To the Christian soldier this piece of armor is a call to both "readiness" and "peace of mind." Warning: peacelessness brings defeat!

- **Shield of Faith** . To a Roman soldier, his shield was a portable metal banded door which he hid behind in battle. This shield served as the deflector from the flaming darts of the enemy. To the Christian soldier faith extinguishes all the flaming missiles of the evil one. Warning: Doubt brings defeat! He said. There's stuff flying all the time - watch out! There are arrows, deadly sharp, some even burning with fire, all aimed your way. Take your mobile wall of protection. Stand behind this refuge and escape the missiles that are coming your way!

Lessons on the Roman shield

So, how can we have this shield of faith to lead us to a secure victory? Some helpful insights come from a look into the soldiers gear of the first century Roman army.

There were two basic types of shields in Paul's day. The first was a small, round shield (Greek, aspis) strapped onto a soldier's arm by two leather straps. This was the shield used in close up battle. It would deflect the swords and daggers in hand to hand combat. This was an important shield but not the one Paul is speaking of.

The second shield (Greek, thureon) is the one Paul describes in v. 16. This was a very large shield built on a wooden slab five feet high and three feet wide. The wood was covered with metal and a special leather that was soaked in water to extinguish and arrows tipped with fire that might be shot in the course of the battle. With the average height in Paul's day of five feet, most soldiers would be completely covered when they stood behind this shield. In the Roman way of doing battle the foot soldiers would often plant these shields in the ground side by side and thus form an impenetrable wall of metal behind which they safely stood against spears, arrows and even fiery missiles.

So Paul said, faith is the barrier behind which we stand and see all that Satan and his hosts throw at us is deflected and extinguished. Just as the Romans were undefeated as long as they employed the legionnaires in battle using these shields, so Jesus always wished to lead us in triumph as we walk by faith behind Him our shield and defender!

Often the Lord has promised us Himself as our shield :

- [Genesis 15:1](#) After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."
- [2 Samuel 22:31](#) As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
- [Psalm 3:3](#) But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.
- [Psalm 5:12](#) For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.
- [Psalm 18:2](#) The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- [Psalm 18:30](#) As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
- [Psalm 33:20](#) Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.
- [Psalm 119:114](#) You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

Satan's plan is to hit our areas of doubt

[Genesis 3:1-5](#) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' "2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;3 "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die .5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened , and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

NKJV

SATAN'S FOUR SPIRITUAL FLAWS: (Gen. 3)

- Doubt God's Word v. 1a "Has God indeed said ". What Satan wants is for us to DOUBT GOD. We doubt God when we doubt His Word. Satan wants us to believe that God's Word is just like any other book. It is nice, helpful, but not absolute. He wants us to question God's Word, avoid God's Word, neglect God's Word or whatever else it takes to get us out of regular contact with the Lord.
- Doubt God's Goodness v. 1b " 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? " What Satan wants is for us to DOUBT GOD. We doubt God when we doubt His Goodness. Satan wants us to believe is that God is trying to hold out on us, He is robbing us of some good times, He is out of touch with our needs, He missed that disaster we just went through, He messed up on how He made us, He means well but doesn't quite have everything under control.
- Doubt God's Authority v. 4 "You will not surely die ". What Satan wants is for us to DOUBT GOD. We doubt God when we doubt His Authority. Satan wants us to believe is that God is not in charge - we are in charge; God isn't interested in our choices - are in charge; God will not make us accountable for our deeds - we are in charge.
- Doubt God's Plan v. 5 "your eyes will be opened " What Satan wants is for us to DOUBT GOD. We doubt God when we doubt His Plan. Satan wants us to believe is that there is a better way to immortality, an easier way to glory, a quicker way to happiness.

We must hear and trust the voice of Jesus in his word.

GOD has FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS that destroy Satan's 4 spiritual flaws. We would do well to heed the Voice of Jesus :

- TRUST His Word. [Psalm 119:89](#) Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. NKJV
- REST in His Goodness [Psalm 73:1](#) Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. NKJV
- SUBMIT to His Authority. [James 4:7](#) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. NKJV
- FOLLOW His Plan [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) 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. NKJV

So, if first of all we have seen Jesus was demonstrating the ultimate shield, second, the shield is critical BECAUSE OF Satan's Strategies:

- Satan Fills Heart [Acts 5:3](#) But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"
- Satan can Destroy human Flesh [1 Corinthians 5:5](#) deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- Satan uses Temptations peiradzo [1 Cor. 7:5](#)
- Satan uses Devices noema [2 Cor 2:11](#) in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
- Satan uses Advantages pleonekteo (4122) covetous, overreach, defraud [2 Corinthians 2:11](#) lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.
- Satan uses Buffetings kolaphidzo "with fist" (2852) [2 Corinthians 12:7](#) And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-to keep me from exalting myself!

- Satan uses Oppressions katadunastevo (2616) dominate as oppressive ruler
 - Satan uses landing Places (hunting paths, den of bears, smooth tree trunk den in Canada) topos [Ephesians 4:27](#) nor give place to the devil.
 - Satan uses Hindrances egkopto "interrupts, cut into" (1465);
 - Satan interferes with travels [Romans 15:22](#) For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you;
 - Satan interferes with spiritual growth [Galatians 5:7](#) You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?
 - Satan interferes with ministry [1 Thessalonians 2:18](#) For we wanted to come to you-I, Paul, more than once-and yet Satan thwarted us.
 - Satan interferes with our prayers [1 Peter 3:7](#) You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered in praying * if not right Satan cut in!
 - Satan uses snares (3803) pagis 5 x; [1 Timothy 3:7](#) And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- [1 Timothy 6:9](#) But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
- [2 Timothy 2:26](#) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
- Satan devours = drink down katapino = not eat down kataphago [1 Peter 5:8-9](#) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Remember what this shield can do: [Ephesians 6:16](#) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one .

James FAITH List:

- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE endure [trials 1:2-8](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE understand and resist [temptation 1:12-18](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE obey the [Word 1:19-27](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE allow no [prejudice 2:1-13](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE display it in godly [works 2:14-26](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE hold in place the [tongue 3:1-12](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE receive the wisdom from [above 3:13-18](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE produce separation from the world and submission to [God 4:1-10](#)
- WEARING HIS FAITH MEANS WE wait patiently for Christ's [return 5:7-12](#)

The 13 types of faith mentioned in the New Testament

- [Matthew 6:30](#) "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"
- [Acts 14:22](#) strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
- [Romans 4:20](#) He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
- [Romans 14:1](#) Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.
- [Romans 16:26](#) but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith-
- [Colossians 2:5](#) For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.
- [1 Thessalonians 1:3](#) remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
- [1 Timothy 3:13](#) For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- [2 Timothy 1:5](#) when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.
- [Titus 1:4](#) To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.
- [James 2:5](#) Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?
- [James 2:17](#) Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- [2 Peter 1:1](#) Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

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