

Spiritual Warfare pt 10 Shield of Faith

We are going to continue our study this morning on Spiritual warfare, as we are looking at the Spiritual Armor in Ephesians chapter 6.

Ephesians 6:13-16 (KJV)

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Paul instructs us in the application of the Spiritual Armor that God provides us so that we are prepared for spiritual battle. In the first three parts (Belt of Truth, Breast plate of Righteousness, and Shoes of Peace) to our armor we see that the scripture tells us that we are to have them on at all times, but regarding the shield of faith the scripture says "taking the shield of faith".

It seems to me that the shield was a very important piece of the armor of a Roman soldier. It was used in several ways.

1. Shield to hide behind.
2. Shield to protect against anything coming against you.
3. Shield against sword strikes in close combat
4. Grouped with others as protection against attacks from above.

It seems to me that the Shield is very important to the Roman soldier as part of his war equipment. It has more than one purpose.

1. It protects against enemy weapons striking you.
2. It protects against an enemy attack as a group.
3. It can be used as a weapon in hand to hand combat.

As I think about the Shield spoken of by Paul in Ephesians, I think of how I would be able to use it as a Christian.

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Paul wasn't a military man so he isn't thinking of all the uses of the shield of Faith. He is telling us that the shield can withstand the arrows that are fired at us by the enemy.

The demonic forces under Satan's leadership launches attacks at us in attempts to keep us pinned down. By faith, we extinguish these fiery projectiles and continue to move forward in battle. The shield of faith allows us to continue advancing into enemy territory.

Together we can lock our shields, and defend against larger attacks like against the church or as we are battling right now against the Equality Act.

This also addresses those who talk about getting their church online or on TV. The bible tells us that we are to go and gather ourselves together. Our armor is designed to work with others. We can link our armor (faith) and use it together in battles that are too large for one person to take.

Proverbs 27:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Our shield is based upon FAITH. We all know we are given "**the measure of faith**", which is the amount of faith necessary for you to find Jesus in this dark and fallen world.

But as we grow in the word, our faith becomes stronger, it becomes able to withstand more and understand more. Our faith is not only defensive as our shield, but if you look at the Roman shield, it has a steel ball protruding from the center of it.

This ball is there so that in close hand to hand combat, you can use this ball offensively by thrusting your shield into the enemy.

So our faith works the same way, it not only defends us against attack, but it can be used to advance against an enemy. Our faith can also be used offensively to attack an enemy or defensively to fight an enemy who has gotten too close for comfort.

Faith works in that way, when something comes against us, our faith allows us to stand strong, because in conjunction with the Belt of Truth, **we understand things beyond what our eyes can see.**

We are not going to fall for Satan's lies, and deception (fiery darts), because our Faith keeps our eyes upon the one who has the real power. **Our faith tells Satan we have no fear of him.**

Our Faith strengthens us to stand against anything that comes against us because we know that the battle we fight is for the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Our faith is the basis of everything God wants us to be. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is everything to the Christian, without it we couldn't even be saved, because you must have Faith in Jesus to accept the gift of Salvation.

Hebrews contains the hall of fame for faith.

Hebrews 11:1-8 (KJV)

¹ **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

² **For by it the elders obtained a good report.**

³ **Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**

⁴ **By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.**

⁵ **By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**

⁶ **But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

⁷ **By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.**

⁸ **By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**

Our history as Christian's is based upon faith, and God will use our faith as a shield to protect us **because our faith allows us to believe in God and what He say's to us without having to have proof in our hands.**

God say's something to your heart, and you believe it because God said it, not because you have proof, or you can see it with your eyes.

You are sitting here listening to me now, and what I'm saying to you comes through scripture, but you believe what I'm saying not because I such a great person, or that I have impeccable qualifications, no it's because you believe in God and you believe in his word.

Your Faith in God allows you to discern if this word is really from God or not.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

Our faith will shield us from Satan's attacks, and his deception, and when added to our other armor, it not only protects us defensively, but it aids in our attacks when we are on offense.

Things to remember.

Shields protect us from powerful long-range weapons and unexpected strikes. We don't know what a day may bring. The shield of faith helps to cover the areas of our life we don't

know how to handle. When confusing trials and attacks come our way, we can have faith that God is still in control. Fiery trials can be deflected or extinguished when we raise the shield of faith..

Ephesians 6:14-17 (KJV)

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

It's pretty easy to understand these last two parts of our armor, a helmet protects your head, from a devastating injury, just like a football helmet protects your head when you are getting hit.

In our spiritual armor, our helmet protects our mind from the attacks that come from our enemy. We know that many attacks come in our minds, it is considered the most used battlefield, in the spiritual war.

Our helmet is our Salvation. I truly believe today that many Christians are so settled into our Christian walk that they've lost sight of the importance of our Salvation.

The things that Satan tries to use against our minds are things that the rest of the world worries about, but when you realize that Jesus defeated those things for us, and when we accept Him and His work, our Salvation includes those victories that have already been won.

Look how David thought of God when Saul was trying to kill him.

2 Samuel 22:2-4 (KJV)

² And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

³ The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

⁴ I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Our Salvation is much more than just the guarantee of Heaven, it is our promise from God that we are forever joined with Him, and where we are so He is, and He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Our Salvation removes the threat of Hell, it removes the sting of Death, it provides us the opportunity to serve the King without FEAR.

Our helmet of Salvation gives us security in our minds that we are in God's protection, and when the enemy tries to attack our mind with problems and trials of this world, we can say to him, I will not fear, for my mind knows of my Salvation, and you can not hurt me.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

When we draw our sword in battle, we are drawing the word of God.

Just as Jesus did in the desert when Satan was tempting him,

Matthew 4:1-10 (KJV)

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

In every attempt Satan made to tempt Jesus, He answered Satan with Scripture. Notice Satan didn't argue the point, he just moved on to his next offer.

The word of God carries with it the power to defend, and the power to attack.

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)

12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word of God can not only defeat an enemy attack that comes against our mind, but it is offensively as sharp in destroying any attacker coming against us.

Think about our armor for a minute, Our sword is held on our Belt of Truth. The belt holds everything together, including our sword of the Word.

The word of God is true, it is based upon absolute truth, and it is held together by truth. The word of God is a treasure for the believer, a treasure that holds answers to all questions.

A treasure that withstands the trials of TIME, that speaks without fear, opens up before us WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.

When we draw our sword, we are presenting before our enemy the WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of God, which is so powerful that it can divide the Soul and Spirit.

In addition to all our protective armor, God has given us a weapon that when used as intended, can defeat a spiritual enemy on his own plain, not even in our physical world. If it can divide the soul and spirit, it can defend against a spirit, and God saw fit to entrust that powerful weapon to you and I.

We must endeavor to read and know the Word of God because it is the weapon that hangs on our belt, that we must draw in times of war, or spiritual attack both defensively and offensively, for its power is UNLIMITED, and when added to the rest of our armor, we become invincible through God who loves us.