

“FAITH IT”

EPHESIANS 6:16

PROP: FAITH IN GOD GIVES YOU VICTORY

INTRO: I ALMOST FELL OUT WHILE TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH WENDY AT THE SACHSE PARADE.

TRANS: AS A BELIEVER HAVE YOU EVERY TRIED TO FAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH SOMETHING? I MEAN HAVE YOU EVER HAD MOMENTS WHEN YOU WERE SCARED TO DEATH ABOUT SOMETHING BUT TRIED TO ACT LIKE YOU HAD ALL THE CONFIDENCE IN THE WORLD? HAVE YOU EVER HAD MOMENTS WHEN EVERYTHING IN YOUR LIFE WAS CRASHING, BUT YOU TRIED TO ACT LIKE YOU HAD IT ALL TOGETHER? NOW WHILE BEING POSITIVE IS NOT A BAD THING, YOU WILL HOWEVER NEED MORE THAN A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE WHEN YOU ARE UNDER SPIRITUAL ATTACK. YOU ARE GOING TO NEED SO REAL HELP. I MEAN WHEN THE DEVIL GETS BUSY IN YOUR LIFE YOU WON'T MAKE IT BY FAKING IT. IF YOU'RE GOING TO REALLY MAKE IT, THEN YOU NEED TO FAITH YOUR WAY THROUGH IT. AND HERE IN **EPHESIANS 6:16** WE LEARN [THAT EXERCISING YOUR FAITH IN GOD GIVES YOU THE VICTORY.](#)

IN VERSE 16 THE APOSTLE PAUL BEGINS BY SAYING **IN EVERY SITUATION TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH.** ITS HERE THAT PAUL MENTIONS ANOTHER PIECE OF ARMOR USED BY THE ROMAN SOLDIERS WHICH WAS A SHIELD. THIS WAS NOT A SMALL SHIELD LIKE THE ONE CAPTIAN AMERICA USES. THIS SHIELD WAS THE SIZE OF A DOOR MADE OUT OF WOOD THAT WAS COVERED WITH ANIMAL SKINS TO GIVE THE SOLDIER MAXIMUM PROTECTION.

PAUL COMPARES METAPHORICALLY THE SHIELD OF A ROMAN SOLDIER TO THE SHIELD OF THE BELIEVERS FAITH WHEN HE SAYS, **“TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH”**. IT'S HERE THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT PAUL IS NOT SAYING THAT THE BELIEVER'S FAITH IS THE SHIELD, BUT RATHER THAT THE BELIEVER'S FAITH IN GOD BECOMES HIS SHIELD DURING SPIRITUAL ATTACK.

THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT FAITH IS NOT **SUBJECTIVE BUT OBJECTIVE.** THIS SIMPLY MEANS THAT FAITH IS NOT A FEELING. THAT FAITH IS NOT WISHFUL THINKING OR SIMPLY HAVING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE. **FAITH HOWEVER IS OBJECTIVE.** FAITH IS TRUSTING IN SOMETHING OR SOMEONE. IN THIS CASE FAITH IS PUTTING ALL YOUR TRUST IN GOD.

PSALMS 28:7 SHEDS LIGHT ON THIS BY SAYING:

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD;

MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM, AND I AM HELPED

SEE THE BELIEVER GETS VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY WHEN HE EXERCISES HIS FAITH IN GOD.

AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM HAS FAITH IN SOMETHING. YOU GOT UP AND HAD FAITH THAT THE SHOWER WORKED. YOU HAD FAITH THAT THE CAR WOULD CRANK. YOU EVEN HAD FAITH THAT THE CHAIR YOU ARE SITTING IN WOULD HOLD YOU UP. **WE EXERCISE FAITH ALL THE TIME.**

NOW YOU CAN PUT YOUR FAITH IN WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT YOUR FAITH IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE OBJECT THAT YOU PUT IT IN.

SO, IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL THERE ARE TWO PLACES YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR FAITH:

PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S PRESENCE

THE WORDS **TAKE UP** ARE ACTION WORDS. THEY EXPRESS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOLDIER. I LIKE THIS BECAUSE PAUL GIVES US A PICTURE OF THE SHIELD BEING BETWEEN THE SOLDIER AND HIS OPPONENT.

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON WAYS PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED DURING SPIRITUAL ATTACK IS THE FEELING OF BEING ALONE. AND IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE VICTORY OVER THE ENMEY YOU NEED TO HAVE FAITH THAT GOD IS IN THE FIGHT WITH YOU.

WE SEE GOD DOING THIS THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE. HE GOT BETWEEN NOAH, MOSES AND DANIEL EVEN THOUGH THEY COULDN'T SEE HIM, GOD WAS THERE.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY PAUL GIVES US A PICTURE OF **THE DELIBERATE ACT** OF THE SOLDIER GETTING BEHIND THE SHIELD. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SHIELD WAS NO GOOD TO THE SOLDIER IF HE DIDN'T GET BEHIND IT.

AND THE SAME IS TRUE FOR THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER. LISTEN TO THESE TWO VERSES OF SCRIPTURE.

PSALM 18:30

*GOD—HIS WAY IS PERFECT;
THE WORD OF THE LORD IS PURE.
HE IS A SHIELD TO ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM*

PROVERBS 30:5

*EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE;
HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM*

SO IT'S ONE THING TO KNOW THAT GOD CAN PROTECT YOU. BUT FAITH IS EXCERSIED ONLY WHEN YOU RUN TO GOD TO BE PROTECTED.

AND MAYBE THE REASON WE KEEP LOSING SPIRITUAL BATTLES IS BECAUSE WE KEEP TRYING TO FAKE IT, RATHER THAN JUST **RUNNING STRAIGHT TO GOD EVERY TIME.**

I BELIEVE THE REASON WE DON'T IS BECAUSE SOME TEACH THAT FAITH IS SOMETHING THAT WE USE TO GET GOD TO DO WHAT WE WANT HIM TO DO AS THOUGH FAITH CONTROLS GOD.

WHEN IN FACT YOUR FAITH IN GOD DOESN'T MAKE GOD RUN TO YOU, BUT YOUR FAITH MAKES YOU RUN TO GOD.

ILLUSTRATION: LADY PARKS CAR ON THE SIDE WALK AT THE SCHOOL TO ESCAPE THE HAIL
APPLICATION: WHEN YOU ARE UNDER ATTACK RUN AND HIDE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD'S POWER

THE WORDS "WITH WHICH YOU CAN EXTINGUISH ALL THE FLAMING ARROWS OF THE EVIL ONE" SHOW US THE PURPOSE OF THE SHIELD. I LIKE THIS BECAUSE PAUL GIVES US A PICTURE OF THE SOLDIER'S ONLY PROTECTION WAS THE SHIELD.

ANOTHER COMMON WAY THAT PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED WHEN UNDER SPIRITUAL ATTACK IS THE FEELING OF BEING POWERLESS. AND IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE THE VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY YOU NEED TO HAVE FAITH THAT GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DELIVER YOU.

GOD IS A DELIVERER. REMEMBER THE STORY ABOUT THE 3 HEBREW BOYS? GOD DELIVERED.

FOR THE ROMAN SOLDIER THE SHIELD WOULDN'T STOP THE ARROWS FROM COMING BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE HIM PROTECTION.

AND THE SAME IS TRUE IN THE BELIEVERS LIFE.

YOUR FAITH IN GOD WON'T KEEP THE DEVIL'S ATTACKS FROM COMING AT YOU, BUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD WILL KEEP THE DEVIL'S ATTACKS FROM OVERCOMING YOU.

THIS IS GOOD NEWS BECAUSE IT MEANS YOU DON'T NEED A BACK UP PLAN JUST TRUST GOD.

PAUL IS NOT TELLING US THIS JUST BECAUSE IT SOUNDS GOOD. PAUL IS SPEAKING TO US FROM A POSITION OF EXPERIENCE. AND THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE FAITH IN GOD'S POWER IS NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS AUTOMATICALLY BUT RATHER IS SOMETHING THAT IS LEARNED OVER TIME.

WHEN HE SAYS, "WITH WHICH" IT'S BECAUSE HE KNOWS FIRST HAND WHAT GOD CAN DO. HE WAS BEATEN, SHIPWRECKED, HUNGRY, BROKE AND WAS CONSTANTLY ON THE RUN.

2 COR 1:8-9 HE SAYS,

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BE UNAWARE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, OF OUR AFFLICTION THAT TOOK PLACE IN ASIA. WE WERE COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED—BEYOND OUR STRENGTH—SO THAT WE EVEN DESPAIRED OF LIFE ITSELF. INDEED, WE FELT THAT WE HAD RECEIVED THE SENTENCE OF DEATH, SO THAT WE WOULD NOT TRUST IN OURSELVES BUT IN GOD...

YOU ARE ABLE TO HANDLE SOME STUFF THE ENEMY SENDS YOUR WAY NOT BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONGER BUT BECAUSE YOU HAVE BETTER SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING. **SOME TIMES GOD WILL LET YOU GO THROUGH SOMETHINGS SO YOU CAN LEARN THAT POSITIVE THINKING CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF IT, THAT DECLARING AND DECREES CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF IT BUT ONLY GOD HIMSELF CAN GET YOU OUT OF WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH.**

ILLUSTRATION: MAKAYLA CAME RUNNING TO ME TO KILL A SPIDER

APPLICATION: WHEN YOU ARE UNDER ATTACK RELY ON THE POWER OF GOD

CLOSE: WE KNOW GOD HAS POWER BECAUSE OF ANOTHER SHIELD...AT THE CROSS AT THE CROSS..