

“Armor Of God: The Shield Of Faith”
(#5 in the “*Geared Up*” series)

Ephesians 6:16

- I. The illustration of faith
- a. The form of the shield: A Roman soldier’s shield (*called a SCUTUM*) was a slightly-curved rectangular shield approximately 4 ft. tall by 3 ft. wide. It wasn’t a solid piece of wood or metal, but rather thinner layers of wood covered in multiple layers of animal skins. The edges were studded with iron to protect the leather, and in the center was a large metal knob called a _____.
- b. The function of the shield
- i. _____ (*i.e. defense*): This shield was meant to cover pretty much the whole body. It was effective both in the _____ and _____ positions.
- i. The protection of the _____
- i. Because of its slight curve, it could _____ attacks without the full force of the assault being transferred to the soldier.
- ii. Before going into battle, a Roman soldier would immerse his shield in water. The animal skins would absorb the water, which helped to _____ any fiery pitch that splattered against the shield.
- ii. The protection of the _____: A group of soldiers could use their shields to form what was known as the *TESTUDO*. (*i.e. literally meaning “_____”*)
- ii. _____ (*i.e. offense*): The metal boss in the center could be used as a means of _____ or knocking an opponent backwards.

- II. The importance of faith
- a. The perspective
- i. The _____ of faith: “*A complete confidence/trust in God Himself that moves you to respond to His revealed Word in obedience*”. (Hebrews 11:1 – “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*”)
- i. The _____: Our faith should be in _____ alone.
- ii. The _____: True, Biblical faith also moves a person to action/obedience.
- i. The _____ of faith is God Himself! (Proverbs 30:5 – “*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*”)
- ii. Christ works & enables it in us, but we must _____ it. (Romans 10:17 – “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”)
- ii. The _____ of faith
- i. The _____ tense of salvation (*i.e. justification*): We know that faith is a necessary _____ of salvation.
- ii. The _____ tense of salvation (*i.e. sanctification*): Believers are to _____ walk in the same faith they exercised at the moment of salvation, which allows the indwelling Holy Spirit to do His _____ work in their hearts & lives.
- iii. The _____ of faith: Paul’s primary focus here is more on _____ faith rather than *justifying* faith.

- b. The power: Faith is essentially the “*first line of defense*” against the barrage of _____ that the enemy throws at believers in today’s world- that promised “*way of escape*”. (I Corinthians 10:13 – “***There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.***”) (I Peter 5:8-9a – “***8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith...***”)

III. The implementation of faith

- a. Claim God’s _____. There are so many promises in Scripture that are ours for the claiming! Satan’s attacks are no match for them!
- b. Comprehend God’s _____. If we know the doctrinal truths of Scripture, then Satan will not be able to _____ them in an effort to _____ us.
(II Timothy 2:15 – “***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***”)
- c. Cite God’s _____. Scripture tells us that we serve an _____ God. Therefore, if He has been faithful to His children in times _____, then He will be faithful to His children in both the _____ and the _____. Never forget/lose sight of what God has done for you- and others!