

Protected by the Shield of Faith

September 17th & 18th, 2016

Ephesians 6:16

“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;”

As we continue to learn what it means to be actively dressed in the armor of God, we come to the shield of faith that must be used in all circumstances of our Christian walk, in order that we can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

“In all circumstances, take up the shield of faith”

- ❖ The shield was the primary defense of the soldier in battle. In the same way, the believer’s trust in God provides the initial protection against the schemes of the devil.
- ❖ The shield of faith not only stops the attack of the dart but extinguishes its fire.
- ❖ In the spiritual warfare and in the Christian journey, it all boils down to faith!

Faith is fundamental because...

...Faith pleases God.

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”

...Faith gives us access to God’s gifts and rewards.

*John 1:12 “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right (**power**) to become children of God.”*

...Faith gives us victory over Satan and the world.

1 John 5:4 “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.”

1 Peter 4:12 “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

Ä We are the target of the enemy and faith is the way to avoid being hit!

Ä At all times as well as in every area of our Christian life, faith in God is vital. We need faith as we pray, as we persevere in His purpose, and especially as we face constant challenges that are directed at us by the enemy.

- ❖ Taking up the shield of faith is not only a command but also the duty of the Christian soldier. If you are in a battle, you must have the shield, you must handle it correctly, and you must master it, for your life depends on it!

We define faith as...

Hebrews 11:1-2 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.”

... believing in God's promises.

Ä In today's theology, we struggle between presumption and unbelief. Presumption is when we stand on something that God has not promised to us. Unbelief is when God has spoken yet we don't believe and obey.

Ä The correct faith is when we set our heart on what God has said, trust in Him, and act upon it. ... believing in God's Character.

Ä True belief is experiencing the love of God as a personal relationship that gives us the assurance and conviction that what He says is reality and is good. We are basing our faith on the character of an Unchanging, Powerful, Magnificent and Supernatural God.

Psalm 16:1-2 "Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge. I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.'"

Ä The emphasis of faith is not in our ability to believe but on the power, the character and the will of God.

... following God's Word.

Ä His direction is our provision – there is no better way than God's way for our lives.

Psalm 18:30 "This God – His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him."

Ä Our faith is a declaration of what we think about the character of God!

"You can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one"

❖ The fiery darts of the devil are coming at us on a constant basis. They are aimed to discourage, to afflict, and to destroy us. In this verse, Paul states that the only proper solution to these flaming darts is: The Shield of Faith.

❖ We must learn not to be controlled by anything other than God; not by success, our pride, or our fears. Risk, danger, and problems are things that God places in our lives to test us and to see if we are willing to trust in Him.

Psalm 5:12 "For You bless the righteous, O LORD; You cover him with favor as with a shield."

❖ A man that fully trusts in God would never be afraid of anything or anyone! God gives the greatest protection that any person can receive, yet that person must trust in Him first.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Endnotes:

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