

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:10-15

Over the last several weeks, our focus has been on Spiritual Warfare.

We know that we are to put on the full armor of God and stand firm.

So far, Paul's description of the armor of God has been limited to items we wear.

We put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the shoes of peace.

The shield is different.

The shield is something we must take up, something we are required to raise.

The Roman shield was large, slightly curved, and featured a large metal knob (called a boss).

Because of its slight curve, it was able to deflect attacks

Because of its boss, it was able to deflect blows and knock an opponent backwards.

When the Roman army joined its shields together, it became an almost unstoppable force.

I. The Shield of Faith Ephesians 6:16

A. What is Paul trying to reveal to us by calling the shield *the shield of faith*?

How does Faith protect us from them enemy?

Notice:

We have already put on the Belt of Truth, The Breastplate of Righteousness, and the shoes of Peace.

1. Having received Christ, we trust our salvation through faith is never in jeopardy.

2. But what about our day-to-day issues?

Our health, our family, our relationships, our jobs, our finances, our addictions.

Those are the parts of your life that the enemy will attack.

We need a shield to protect us from the flaming darts of the wicked.

B. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith

The shield of faith is your protection against the enemy and should be with you everywhere you go.

Your faith is attached to the Word of God.

Your faith and its strength is directly tied to your knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

The Word of God is not attached to our faith; our faith is attached to God's Word.

If we fail to give God's Word a place of priority in our lives -

it is only a matter of time before our faith will begin to fail.

C. The presence of or absence of faith is determined by the presence of or absence of God's Word.

Romans 10:17

Strong faith shields are determined by the presence of God's Word in our life.

II. The purpose of the shield of faith.

A. The shield guards and protects.

It protects our spiritual lives even in the midst of physical trials.

B. The shield deflects.

Satan continuously hurls his fiery darts of fear, doubt, anxiety and frustration in our direction;

but the only time they can hit us is when we let our shield of faith down.

C. The shield is the first line of defense.

While the rest of our armor helps protect us from Satan's attacks, the shield is hit first.

D. The shield can incapacitate.

When Christ was being tempted by Satan,

His faith in the Word and commands of God repelled Satan for a time.

III. Using the shield of faith.

When the Roman army joined its shields together, it became an almost unstoppable force.

When we join our shields; we strengthen each other with our faith.

We must remember as we fight that this is not simply our battle.

This is the battle of all believers around the world.

Jude 3; Ephesians 6:16

