

Above all, taking the shield of faith

Our ultimate defence

Introduction:

In Ephesians 6:10-18 we read about our Ultimate defence, the whole reading here is about defence.

Defence is when you have the enemy's arrows coming against you.

Offence is when you are out to fight the enemy. That can be when you are praying for anybody that is sick, or oppressed by the devil.

Ephesians 6:16

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

Let me say something about faith.

You cannot have faith without speaking it.

When you study Romans 10, you will notice that it says that "the righteousness which is of the law... does... But the righteousness of faith speaks."

The law is about doing, whereas faith is about speaking.

It is not enough to just know in your mind that you are righteous.

It is not enough to just hear a sermon on righteousness and mentally agree that you are righteous.

You need to open your mouth and say by faith, "I am the righteousness of God in Christ." (2 Cor. 5:21).

This is where many believers are missing out on the blessing of Abraham.

They are not speaking their righteousness by faith.

The Roman shield

The Roman shield of the time, known as a scutum, was not just a defensive tool but also had offensive capabilities.

It was as large as a door and could completely cover a warrior, providing maximum protection.

Additionally, the scutum could be used to push opponents, adding another layer of versatility to its functionality.

When fighting as a group, soldiers would position their shields in a formation called a testudo, or "tortoise," which created an enclosure around themselves.

This formation was particularly effective in protecting against arrows launched from city walls during attacks.

The shields were typically made of plywood and covered in water, which had the added benefit of being able to extinguish flaming arrows when wet.

This made the shield an indispensable tool for a soldier, providing a reliable blanket of protection in all circumstances.

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It served as the first barrier against the enemy's attack and played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the soldiers.

Furthermore, shields were often painted with identifying marks.

By taking up the shield of faith, a Christian identifies themselves as a foot soldier serving the Commander of the Lord's army, as mentioned in Joshua 5:14.

This symbolises the commitment and dedication of believers in their spiritual journey, equipping themselves with the shield of faith to navigate the challenges and battles they may face.

Have you ever felt like you're under attack? Like there are fiery darts being launched at you from every direction?

In the spiritual realm, we face a constant battle against the forces of evil.

But fear not, for God has given us a powerful weapon **to protect ourselves** - the shield of faith.

Today we will delve into the significance of this verse and explore the power of faith as a shield to safeguard us from the attacks of the enemy.

Let's go on a journey of understanding and discover how faith can become **our ultimate defence.**

But first let us have a short look at a video about how the Romans used the shield for protection.

<https://youtu.be/jv-JeOAOm8Y?si=IVGB1HWg-NjIC8yr&t=32>

I. Understanding the Shield of Faith

To truly grasp the power of the shield of faith, we must first understand what faith means in the context of The Bible.

Faith is not just a blind belief or a mere hope.

It is a firm trust in God and His promises/ His Word.

It is the conviction that He is faithful and will fulfil His Word.

Living by faith requires surrendering our doubts and fears, and choosing to trust in His divine plan.

Faith plays a very important role in our spiritual journey.

It is the foundation upon which our relationship with God is built.

Without faith, it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Our faith allows us to experience the fullness of God's love, mercy, and grace.

It enables us to walk in obedience and step into the destiny He has prepared for us.

Just as a shield protects a soldier from the blows of the enemy, faith shields us from the attacks of the wicked one.

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It acts as a barrier, deflecting the fiery darts and preventing them from causing harm.

In the battle against spiritual forces, our faith becomes our armour, providing us with the strength and courage to stand firm.

Faith is Our ultimate Defence Weapon

II. The Fiery Darts of the Wicked

The metaphor of fiery darts used in Ephesians 6:16 vividly portrays the tactics of the enemy.

These darts represent the various forms of attacks we may face in our spiritual journey.

The devil seeks to undermine our faith, distort the truth, and hinder our relationship with God.

The enemy's fiery darts can take many forms.

Doubt, for instance, is a common weapon he uses to sow seeds of uncertainty in our minds.

He wants us to question God's goodness, His promises, and even our own worthiness.

Fear is another fiery dart that he hurls at us, paralysing us with anxiety and preventing us from stepping into God's calling for our lives.

Temptation, manipulation, and deception are also among the enemy's arsenal.

They can lead to confusion, discouragement, and even a sense of distance from God.

But fear not, for the shield of faith is our defence against these fiery darts.

III. The Shield: How Faith Protects Us

Speak the Word of God.

Faith has several things that make it an effective shield.

Faith is built on the truth of God's Word.

By saturating our minds and speaking out the Word of God, His promises, we are able to protect ourselves from the lies of the enemy.

Romans 10: 5-10 presents a beautiful message about righteousness and salvation.

Let's dive deeper into the verses to understand their significance.

In verse 5, Moses describes the righteousness that comes from following the law.

It emphasises that those who do these things will find life through their obedience.

And the Bible says that if we break one law, we have broken the whole law.

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Verse 6 introduces a different kind of righteousness, one that comes from faith.

It encourages us not to question who will bring Christ down from heaven or bring Him back from the dead.

This righteousness is not about our efforts, but about believing in Jesus.

Moving on to verse 8, it highlights that this word of faith is not distant or unattainable.

It is near to us, in our mouths and in our hearts. It refers to the word of faith that is preached to us, and that we speak out loud.

Verse 9 contains a powerful message of salvation.

It tells us that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.

This confession and belief are crucial for our salvation.

Finally, verse 10 emphasises the significance of the heart in our journey of faith.

It says that through the heart, we believe and attain righteousness.

And through our mouth, we make the confession that leads to salvation.

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These verses remind us that righteousness and salvation come not from our own works, but through faith in Jesus Christ.

They encourage us to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths, leading us to a deeper relationship with God and the assurance of salvation.

According to this description, the person who follows the law diligently will find life in doing so.

The old covenant righteousness is not effective, because we are not able to keep the whole law with the 613 different laws.

James 2:10 says that If you break one law you have broken the whole law.

The other kind of righteousness, which comes from faith, is the righteousness that Abraham became righteous through.

When we speak the Word of God, faith acts as a filter, helping us discern between what is of God and what is of the enemy.

It allows us to distinguish between truth and falsehood, guiding us in the right path and helping us avoid deception.

Lastly, faith is a powerful weapon of offence.

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By declaring God's truth and promises, we can actively combat the attacks of the enemy.

Declarations:

I am assured all things work together for good (Romans 8:28)

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God

(2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).

I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).

I am chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 11).

I am holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4).

I am adopted as his child (Ephesians 1:5).

I am given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction (Ephesians 1:5,8).

It is important to nurture our faith through prayer, studying God's Word, and surrounding ourselves with fellow believers.

As we grow in faith, our shield becomes stronger and more impenetrable.

The fiery darts may come, but they will be quenched by the power of our shield of faith.

Conclusion:

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In the battle against the forces of evil, the shield of faith is our greatest defence.

It protects us from the fiery darts of doubt, fear, and temptation.

It enables us to stand firm in the face of adversity, knowing that God is faithful and His promises are true.

As you navigate through the challenges of life, remember to take up your shield of faith.

Trust in God's unfailing love and believe in His power to protect and guide you.

Let your shield of faith be a constant reminder of the strength and security you have in Him.

May your faith be unwavering, and may the shield of faith quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

God bless you abundantly on your journey of faith!