

## Put on the Armor of God

### The Shield of Faith **Ephesians 6:13-18**

*Review - God provides in Salvation*

*Truth* - Integrity as a belt

*Righteous of Christ* - as a breastplate

*Peace* - as a covering for our feet

**In addition to all** - These must be in place before we enter the battle

**Take up** - But we also have armor that we must actively use

#### ***The Shield of Faith***

### Roman Soldier

Two kinds of shields 1. Small round on that attached to one arm and 2. A very large one (up to 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide) interlocking with others.

Here it is #2 - made of wood or metal, layered with leather or wet cloth to literally put out the burning arrows of the enemy. Used in formation with others in line or even in "Tortoise" formation when moving forward. Curved to deflect arrows.

To protect against flying objects - stones or arrows

To form a protective line for other soldiers

To actually put out flaming arrows shot at the soldier

### Soldier of God

Must be used actively - take up - speaks of preparation

Must be used in connection with other believers

Note: our shield is really God - not our belief. We trust in Him

Old Testament promises

Abraham -*After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."*

David -*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

### What is Faith?

Not: Will power - my strength against the enemy

Mystical spirit that some have and not others

Is: reality in an unseen battle **Hebrews 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

**Substance** = substantiating assurance - reality

**Evidence** = conviction leading to, proof of

### What comes from Faith?

We are justified before God - **Romans 5:1**

We are saved - **Ephesians 2:8**

We are pleasing to God - **Hebrews 11:6**

We overcome the world - **1 John 5:4**

We shield each other **Ephesians 4:16**

### What are the "flaming arrows" of the enemy?

They come flying - suddenly toward our lives

They seek to destroy the image of God in us - lead to unbelief.

**Examples** - **Blasphemous thoughts** - no God, evil God,

**Critical or hateful thoughts** - about yourself or others

**Lust, wrath, revenge** - stemming from hatred or despair

**Fears, anxieties, panic attacks** - fears of being abandoned

**Medical problems** for no apparent reason

**Discouragement, doubting** - leading to accusations from Satan

**Burning desire to sin** - doing what you know is wrong

**Unexplainable conflicts** - doubt of the friendship of another

**Overwhelming times of depression** - for no apparent reason

### What does it mean to "take up" the shield of Faith?

1. It means we actively seek to build our faith in God

a. Not faith in faith but in His promises

Studying the promised of God

Applying the Word to our daily lives

b. Not looking for great faith but living faith

Mustard seed faith moves mountains

Little faith allows us to walk on water

2. It means we link our Faith with other believers

a. Finding your strengths and needs

b. Finding your place of service in the Church

c. Seeking to give more than we receive from others

3. It means follow in obedience our God's commands **Romans 1:5,16**

### Conclusion

Since our Faith is founded on the promises of God -

How familiar are we with these promises

Since our Lord could come at any time -

Are we ready with our shield of Faith active?

Since God is our shield

Do we trust in His Person? Do we trust His promises?

Do we trust His plan and timing?

One of the most sobering questions Christ asked

**However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"**