

September 2015

From the Pastor



Shielding Faith

I like science fiction movies. Almost all the science fiction shows have force fields. You don't see these fields, but they protect you if you are surrounded by one.

I know a shield you cannot see that exists to protect you. It is part of the armor of God.

If you remember, I have been discussing the different parts of the armor of God that we put on to fight the spiritual battle we are in. Today we are looking at the shield of faith. Here is what God says about the shield of faith.

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; (Ephesians 6:16 ESV)

Now how do we put on the shield of faith? We put it on by putting our faith in God. First, we trust that God exists and that He cares for us. We put all our trust in Him as our Savior and Lord. We completely trust in Him. It is a total dependence on God on how we live our lives. We take His word as the truth for our life and trust that what He tells us is the best for us. We pray and have faith that there is a God who cares about us and that He will get involved in our lives as we pray.

Shield of Faith



I see four things to remember in this verse about putting on the shield of faith.

First, we are to put on this shield all the time. This is something that we do not do only when we feel we need a touch of God in our life. No, we must live by faith. This is a day by day trusting in God. The Christian life is life, and you can't stop living! That would be absurd. Therefore, we are expected to use the shield always.

Second, the shield empowers us. The Bible tells us:

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 ESV)

As we put our faith in God, He makes it possible to live the Christian life. We can do anything God commands as we trust in Him. I think many of us don't believe this, because we have never fully put our trust in God. I mean that we have never completely surrendered every part of our life over to God and trusted in Him to live in and through us.

Third, we can extinguish flaming darts. We are able to put out the attacks on our lives. Whatever we face, if we trust in God, we are able to put out the flames that could wipe us out. Notice the verse doesn't say we will not have problems; what do you think flaming arrows are? Know we won't be destroyed by those problems.

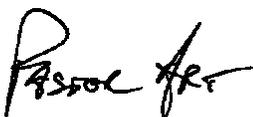
Fourth, these darts are from the devil. We need to realize these attacks are from Satan. He is a fierce opponent. He wants to destroy us. He hates we are no longer going to hell. Since we have put our trust in God, he will do everything in his power to make life on earth hell for us. We do not have the ability to face this opponent on our own. We will lose such a battle. Therefore, we must be completely dependent on God to face this enemy. When our trust is in Him, Satan does not stand a chance.

As I close, I want to give you this insight on the shields that were used by Roman soldiers during the time this verse was written.

*The Greek word translated shield (θυστόν, thureos) refers to the Roman soldier's large rectangular wooden shield, called in Latin scutum, about 4 ft (1.2 m) high, covered with leather on the outside. Before a battle in which flaming arrows might be shot at them, the soldiers wet the leather covering with water to extinguish the arrows. The Roman legionaries could close ranks with these shields, the first row holding theirs edge to edge in front, and the rows behind holding the shields above their heads. In this formation they were practically invulnerable to arrows, rocks, and even spears.**

That is what our shield of faith can do when it comes to the attacks of Satan. **PUT ON YOUR SHIELD!**

In Him and for His glory,



*Crossway Bibles. *ESV: Study Bible : English Standard Version*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2007.