

“The Shield of Faith”

KJV Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

KJV Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

The apostle Paul writes more about spiritual warfare than anyone else.

Paul was told he would suffer many things spreading the gospel (Acts 9:16).

Paul experienced more spiritual warfare than other apostles! (2 Cor 11:23-28)

1. Paul says he was in prison more than others,
2. Beaten more than other disciples,
3. Faced death more often,
4. Five times The Jews beat him with 39 stripes,
5. Three times The Romans beat him clubs,
6. Once he was stoned almost to death,
7. Three times shipwrecked,
8. Drifted on the sea for 24 hours,
9. Taken many faraway journeys,
10. Faced danger on rivers,
11. Danger from his own people,
12. Dangers from strangers,
13. Faced danger in the wilderness,
14. Danger at sea,
15. Danger from false brothers.
16. He labored hard,
17. Was often exhausted,
18. Had many sleepless nights,
19. Often went without food,
20. Has been cold and naked, if those things weren't enough Paul says
21. He was daily faced with the pressure of his concern for all the churches under his care.

2 Corinthians 11:29 When anyone is weak, I'm weak too. When anyone is caught in a trap, I'm also harmed.

Paul mentions 21 challenges he faced preaching The Gospel of Jesus Christ!

All these things Paul endured at the hands of people, yet he knew who was really behind all his suffering—**The Devil!**

The Devil's influence upon man was the cause of Paul's pain and suffering, not just the people!

As we look at the list of things Paul endured I want you to notice the different environments Paul was in and as a result all the different circumstance and situations Paul found himself in that he had to **adapt to!**

Paul realized these things happened to him for a reason, that there was something and someone behind all these challenges—that this was warfare.

That since he was fighting a battle he had to have weapons and armor!

*KJV **Ephesians 6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

Paul was referring to a Roman soldiers shield which was 2 ½' wide and 4 feet long!

It was called a “**scutum**” (scue-tum) a large concave shield that covered the whole body.



This is why Paul says “**above all or most of all**” take your **scutum** because it covers and protects your whole body or entire life!

Faith in God protects us totally and completely!

KJV Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

The shield of faith or faith in God is like a secret place, the enemy cannot penetrate, he cannot get into and he cannot overcome.

This shield was usually made of leather covered with linen and wetted (soaked The Word) **Eph 5:26...washing of water by The Word.**

The **water or The Word of God would put out the fiery arrows!**

The interesting thing is The Shield of Faith doesn't stop the arrows from coming, it only stops them from being effective!

GWN Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that has been made to be used against you will succeed. You will have an answer for anyone who accuses you. This is the inheritance of the LORD's servants. Their victory comes from me," declares the LORD.

It was light enough to be held in one hand so we can carry a weapon in the other.

The only offensive weapon Paul mentions is **The Sword of The Spirit** which is The Word of God!

This is revelation knowledge! Not just having a bible in the house or in your car.

This is knowing what scriptures to apply to a situation and our lives at any given time!

For example, when the king of Sodom promised Abram the spoils of war in agreement to become covenant partners.

Abram said... *"I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'* (Gen 14:22-23

KJV Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Abram made God's promises to him his protection!

Jesus did the same when He was in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil!

In **Luke 4** Jesus hasn't eaten in 40 days and the devil takes advantage of his hunger and says... *if thou art the Son of God, command this stone that it become bread.*

Jesus answered unto him, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone. but by every word of God.

Luke 4:5 *The devil took him to a high place and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant.*

6 *and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.*

7 *If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."*

8 *Jesus answered him, "Scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'*

❖ **Jesus Christ who is The Word had to speak The Word in order for it to be a weapon.**

The Word must be spoken into a situation in order to enter that situation!

A Roman centurion tells Jesus his house was not worthy of His presence, but if Jesus would **just speak The Word** he knew his servant would be healed!

So, while we're under constant attack from the enemy, don't just hide behind your shield—go on the offensive and **Speak The Word of God into the situation!**

The last thing I want to talk about concerning the shield of faith is it's power when we walk together in unity!

While the scutum could protect each soldier, it was more effective when many soldiers brought them together in a formation.



Paul says when The Body of Christ is *fitly joined together* (united in love) it grows stronger.

He goes on to say when The Body is united by love, that love supports the parts that get weak sometimes and when they are strengthened they will one day strengthen and support us when we get weak!

Our individual faith affects the faith of other believers!

When we let down our shields, we let arrows in that hit us and weaken us and other believers.

Our faith doesn't just impact our lives in impacts the lives of others; believers and non-believers!

We aren't given faith just to use to bless our selves!