

The Shield of Faith

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” - Ephesians 6:10-18

A Reminder About the Battle

- This battle has been raging since the creation and there is no “neutral” territory. “He who is not with me is against me” - Luke 11:23

In Addition to All of This...

- The Belt of Truth is your Character. (Your integrity)
- The Breastplate of Righteousness is your Commitment. (guarding heart)
- The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace are your Confidence.

Take Up...

- There are six pieces of armour (seven when adding prayer). Three pieces are worn constantly and three are “taken up” as needed.

The Shield...

- There were two kinds of shields used by the Roman soldier:
 - Round – “Buckler”
 - “Take up shield and buckler; arise and come to my aid.” - Psalm 35:2
 - “...they will take up positions against you on every side with large and small shields and with helmets...” - Ezekiel 23:24
 - Rectangle – “Refuge” – scutum (Greek: *thureon*) - Proverbs 30:5
 - “Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”

Of Faith

- There are two kinds of faith:
 - Saving faith
 - “Even as He spoke, many put their faith in Him.” - John 8:30
 - Living faith. Daily faith, to drive away doubt. (Acts 27:25)

With Which You Can Extinguish All...

- You are responsible for stopping the arrows of doubt.
- You can stop all of them.

The Flaming Arrows of the Evil One.

- These are the temptations or schemes to get you to doubt the truth of God.

“Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” - Ephesians 6:11



What Kinds of Temptation?

1. The temptation to doubt the very existence of God.
 - “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.” - Psalm 53:1
2. The temptation to doubt that you have been forgiven and accepted by God.
 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” - 1 John 1:9
3. The temptation to doubt that you are able to resist Satan.
 - “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” - 1 Peter 5:8
4. The temptation to doubt that God has a plan for your life and will do what is best for you.
 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” - Jeremiah 1:5
 - “I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.” - Job 42:2
5. The temptation to doubt God’s timing.
 - “Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” - Psalm 37:7
6. The temptation to doubt God’s Word.
 - “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12
7. The temptation to doubt that you have the power and the calling to do something great in His Name and for His Kingdom.
 - “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, ²⁰which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.” - Ephesians 1:18-20

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