

The Whole Armor of God – Taking the Shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Shield of faith. It was made of two layers of wood, covered with canvas, and with a leather covering on the outside; this, when soaked with water before the battle, would effectively serve to extinguish the incendiary missiles of the enemy. The soldier carried it in his left hand (and the sword in his right hand). In battle this could be locked together with others to form a wall in front, and a roof overhead.

1 John 5:4–5 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Key ingredient of faith: Trust

Psalm 28:7 The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Psalm 5:12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

Responding in faith to trials—enables us to resist and overcome satanic attacks.

To *take* the shield of faith is to appropriate the promises of God on our behalf, confident that he will protect us in the midst of the battle.

1 Peter 5:8–9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Above all—rather, “Over all”; so as to cover all that has been put on before.

Taking up the shield of faith: Something we consciously do; confessing our trust in Him.

- Faith in God for who He is
- Faith in God for your situation when it looks like defeat
- Confess: “I believe” in the midst of trials
- Standing on promises



Arrows, darts: Weapons tipped with inflammable materials, firebrands, curiously constructed, adapted to set on fire.

Psalm 120:3–4 What shall be given to you, Or what shall be done to you, you false tongue? ⁴ Sharp arrows of the warrior, with coals of the broom tree!

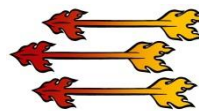
Psalm 64:3–4 Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend *their bows to shoot* their arrows—bitter words, ⁴ That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.

Psalm 11:2 For look! The wicked bend *their bow*, they make ready their arrow on the string, that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart.

- Lust
- Words
- Feelings
- Pride
- Fear
- Revenge
- Offense (Perceived or real)



- Bitterness
- False teaching
- Attacks
- Doubt
- Evil thoughts
- Insecurity



- Despair, no hope, suicide, quitting
- Every kind of temptation to ungodly behavior
- Accusation
- Persecution
- Division



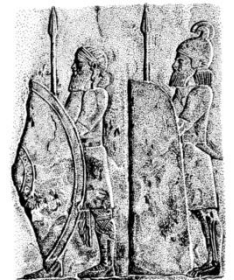
The exercise of your faith quenches every fiery dart of the enemy:



Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.



Take up the shield of faith suggests a deliberate and positive holding on to the God revealed in the gospel; firm and resolute dependence on the Lord which quenches the fiery attempts of the enemy to harm and to spread panic.