

***The Shield of faith:**

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

** Understanding the elements of faith we are protecting;*

**What faith is;*

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

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

**How faith comes about:*

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**It`s By God`s grace through faith we are saved: it is a gift from God*

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

1.) What have we been saved from by grace through faith in Jesus Christ?

**Jesus is The Author and Finisher of our faith:*

Hebrews 12:2 (KJV) ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**It`s by faith in Jesus Christ we have access to God`s grace and are justified and have peace with God:*

Romans 5:1-2 (KJV) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**It's by faith in Jesus Christ we can have victory to overcome the world, the things of the world and the ruler of this world; satan:*

1 John 5:4-5(NKJV) ⁴ 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? Ref's; John 16:33, 1 John 3:8

**Each person has received a degree or measure of faith given to them by God:*

Romans 12:3 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

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

**Our faith is the target the enemy is trying to destroy and the thing we must protect and defend:*

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**Examples of different tactics satan uses to attacks one`s faith in The Lord:*

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV) ³¹ And the Lord Jesus said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) ³ But I am afraid that, even as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted and led away from the simplicity of your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Matthew 13:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

1 Chronicles 21:1 (NKJV) Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. Reference; Exodus 30:12

Acts 5:3 (NKJV) ³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?

**Our faith is how we overcome the enemy;*

1 Peter 5:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Resist satan, *being steadfast in the faith*, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**Be encouraged and strengthened by those who are listed in the hall of faith who overcame their enemies by faith:*

Hebrews 11:27-35 (NKJV) ²⁷ By faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith Moses kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, *whereas* the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. ³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again.

**God is our Shield and first line of defense in the battle against the enemy:*

Psalms 5:12(NKJV) for you, O Lord, will bless the righteous, with favor You will surround ,(protect and cover) them as with a shield.

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

Genesis 15:1 (NKJV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I Am your Shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

Deuteronomy 33:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ Happy *are* you, O Israel! Who *is* like you, a people saved by the LORD, The Shield of your help And The Sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.”

**God promises to go before us and be with us in our battle against the enemy:*

Deuteronomy 1:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ **The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,**

Deuteronomy 20:4 (NKJV) ⁴ **for The LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'**

**We need to put God before us as a shield in the battle against the enemy; practical application:*

**Proclaim God as your shield:*

Psalm 3:3 (NKJV) ³ **But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.**

**Purpose yourself in mind and heart to put God before you in battle:*

Psalm 16:8 (NKJV) ⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.** *Reference 1 Samuel 17:45*

**Pray God would take hold of His shield and fight against the enemy for and with you:*

Psalm 35:1-3 (NKJV) **Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me.² Take hold of shield and ^[b]buckler, And stand up for my help.³ Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."** ^[b]*buckler-In ancient times, a buckler was a type of defensive armor that was worn on the left arm. It was often made of wood or wicker covered with leather and fortified with metal plates. The buckler's primary use was to protect the sword hand.*

**Follow the call to arms by God the commander of His army and prepare for battle:*

Jeremiah 46:3-4 (NKJV) ³ **"Order the buckler and shield, And draw near to battle! ⁴ Harness the horses, And mount up, you horsemen! Stand forth with your helmets, Polish the spears, Put on the armor!**

Deuteronomy 33:29, 2 Samuel 22:3,

**The shield was always in front of the soldier, designed to protect, cover the whole soldier. The shield sometimes was *fixed or dug into the ground making it immovable.*

1Peter 5:8-9a (NKJV) ⁸ **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,**

1Corinthian 16:13(NKJV) ¹³ **Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.**

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) **Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**

**in the greek grammar- the word Shield comes from the root of the word door “Thyre” referring to a large, oblong shield resembling a door in shape.*

**The enemy had to get past or through the shield/ door to get to the soldier.*

John 10:7,9,11(NKJV) ⁷ **Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep**

** The shield was held and directed by hand to deflect blows from the enemies weapons in all directions.*

#fiery darts -In roman time the tips of arrows and spears were hollowed out and made of combustible material that would burst and splatter and burn on impact. The soldiers always had their shields up and ready as the flaming arrows came at an undetectable speed.

1.) *What are some examples of the fiery darts Satan hurls at us?*

** The shield was also used as offensive weapon to literally push back the enemy in hand to hand combat:*

**Push back/down the enemy by proclaiming our faith in God as our conqueror:*

Psalms 44:5 (NKJV) ⁵ **Through God we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.**

**Push the enemy back by our faith through proclaiming out loud that the enemy; satan is defeated from the very beginning by our Commander and Chief Jesus Christ:*

Genesis 3:15 (AMP) ¹⁵ “And I will put enmity open hostility Between you; *the serpent* and the woman, And between your seed offspring and her Seed; *prophetically speaking of Jesus Christ* ; He shall fatally bruise your satan`s head, And you shall only bruise His; *Jesus Christ heel.*”

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ When He; *Jesus Christ* had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross.

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Push back the enemy by proclaiming the truths and attributes of our faith in God and Jesus as our conqueror:*

Romans 8:31-39 (NKJV) ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

** Shields can be locked together with other soldiers shields, forming an impenetrable solid wall, and would advance together towards the enemy.*

Philippians 1:27(AMP) Only lead your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I do come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit [and one purpose], with one mind striving side by side as if in combat for the faith of the gospel.

**Selah:*

Job 41:15-17 (EXB) ¹⁵ It has rows of shields on its back that are tightly sealed together. ¹⁶ Each shield is so close to the next one draws near the other, so that no air can go between them. ¹⁷ They are joined strongly to one another each clings to its neighbor; they hold on to each other and cannot be separated broken off.

** Soldiers sometimes would also gather together in a circle locking shields to make an impenetrable wall around them. Soldiers in the middle of the circle put their shields up over their heads forming a protecting roof enclosing them in a protective fortress:*

Psalm 91:4(AMP)⁴ God will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.

Psalm 125:2 (AMP) ² As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So The Lord surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.

Isaiah 52:12 (AMP) ¹² For you will not go out in a hurry as when you left Egypt, Nor will you go in flight fleeing, as you did from the Egyptians; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Isaiah 31:5 (AMP) ⁵ Like flying birds above, so will the LORD of hosts protect Jerusalem; He will protect and save it, He will pass over and rescue it. *2kings 6:17*

** We need to be working and fighting together in faith as the body of Christ and fellow soldiers in God`s army*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV)⁹ Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up

Ephesians 4:16-32 (NKJV)¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

**Practical application; Our instructions for faith:*

***2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) for we walk by faith, not by sight.**

References; Hebrews 11:1, John 20:29, 1 Peter 1:8-9, 2 Corinthians 4:18

***Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.**

1.) How have we received Jesus Christ?

2.) What are we instructed to do in regards to receiving our faith in Jesus Christ?

***Romans 10:38-39 (NKJV) ^{38A}now the just shall live by faith; ^b But if anyone draws back, ^cMy soul has no pleasure in him.^{39a} But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, ^b but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**

1.) In vs.38a; What is the instruction for faith ?

2.) In vs.38b; What is the warning concerning faith?

3.) In vs.38c; What is the consequence of drawing back?

4.) In vs.39a; Who are we not to be like?

5.) What does draw back to perdition speak of for the believer?

6.) In vs.39b; Who are we to be identified with?

***1 Peter 1:7 (NKJV)** ^{7a} That the trial of your faith, ^b being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, ^c though it be tried with fire, ^d might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1.) *In vs.7a; What is being said about our faith?*

2.) *In vs.7b; What is our faith being compared to?*

3.) *In vs.7b; What is said about our faith in comparison to gold?*

4.) *In vs.7c; What does gold and our faith have in common?*

5.) *In vs.7d; What is goal of our faith at the appearing of Jesus Christ*

Luke 17:5(NKJV) and the apostles said to The Lord, **increase our Faith.**

1.) *How can we increase our faith?*

** Evidence of faith:*

James 2:17,26 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, **if it does not have works, is dead.**
²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

Titus 3:8 (NKJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that **those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.**

Galatians 5:6 (AMP) For if we are in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, **but only faith activated and expressed working through love.**

**Final exhortation: Fight the good fight of faith!*

1 timothy 6:12 (AMP) Fight the good fight of the faith in the conflict with evil; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and for which you made the good confession of faith in the presence of many witnesses.

**Those without faith:*

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

John 8:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.

John 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.