

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

The Shield of FAITH

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For 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. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And 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.

The Armor of God records the Shield of Faith ^{Ephesians 6:16} as the fourth weapon.

The following text will present the Biblical meanings of and uses for Shields and Faith.

In Scripture, a Shield is both a Physical and Spiritual Implement of Protection.

Shields were standard weapons in the warrior's arsenal during Biblical times. ^{1 Samuel 17:41, Psalm 76:3}

2 Chronicles 26:14 Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and slingstones for the entire army.

The drying out of the anointing oil ^{Isaiah 21:5} in King Saul's shield was a symbol of his defeat & death.

2 Samuel 1:21 O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings of grain. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul - no longer rubbed with oil.

Confidence in the LORD's shield is the result of its symbol of an already completed victory.

2 Samuel 22:36 You give me your shield of victory; you stoop down to make me great. ^{Psalm 18:35}

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Shields are a Biblical picture of God's protection & strength for individuals ^{Genesis 15:1, [Psalm 18:2](#), [91:4](#)}, as well as for nations ^{Deuteronomy 33:29, [Isaiah 31:5](#)}. These shields of security are offered to the followers of the LORD who trust in Him ^{Psalm 28:7a}, are righteous ^{Psalm 5:12} and are upright ^{Proverbs 2:7}.

2 Samuel 22:1-4 David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior - from violent men you save me. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

Faith is a Critical Biblical Concept to be embraced or rejected / used wisely or poorly.

To "break faith" was an OT expression for turning away from faith in God. ^{Malachi 2:10-16}

Joshua 22:16 The whole assembly of the LORD says: 'How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the LORD and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now?'

The Bible describes ordinary people having "great faith" ^{Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26, Mark 5:24b-34, [Luke 1:1-10](#)}, as well as relating stories about the apostles displaying "little faith" ^{Matthew 8:23-27, [14:22-33](#), Mark 16:14}.

True Faith Begins with a Step, but Continues and Grows Only through Application.

Faith in Jesus results in healing (*sōzō*: to save) ^{Matthew 9:22} and salvation (*sōtēria*) ^{1 Peter 1:8-9}, producing justification before a perfect and righteous God ^{Romans 3:22a, Galatians 3:26, Ephesians 2:8-9}.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

While genuine salvation is secure ^{John 10:27-28}, a lifestyle of faith is an ongoing process ^{2 Timothy 2:22}.

Colossians 2:6-7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Spirit-filled believers will mature in faith as a result of obedience ^{James 2:21, 2 Peter 1:5-8}; however, their expressing faith in works must never lose sight of right motivation: Love ^{Galatians 5:6, 1 Thessalonians 1:3}.

John 14:12a "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing."

1 Corinthians 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Faith will grow best through daily gaining strength from God ^{Ephesians 6:10}, especially during testing.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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God's Word assures Believers that Jesus promised to reward those who grow through the trials.

1 Peter 1:6b-7 ...for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

In an incredible blessing, Jesus takes even a little Genuine Faith and produces Supernatural results.

Luke 17:6 [Jesus] replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Ultimately, Faith of Eternal Value comes from Jesus and will be completed in Heaven.

Hebrews 12:2a Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

In conclusion, the Shield of Faith from God will "extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one"; however, the "flaming arrows" of the Divine Warrior are indestructible.

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day. If he does not relent, he will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows. Psalm 7:11-13

The fourth piece in the Armor of God, the Shield of Faith, is designed to protect the Christian in Spiritual Battles by placing the Shield in the best position to not only block the attacks (flaming arrows) by Satan (the evil one), but to also "extinguish" them. These arrows can come in the form of spiritual, emotional and/or physical assaults designed to use up as much of the Christian's attention and energy as possible, in order to diminish the effectiveness of the believer's work for the Kingdom of God. The Shield's power is from God, but is activated by the depth of the Christian's Faith resulting from their level of commitment to and growth from God's plan for their life.

Psalm 5:12 For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 76:3 There [God] broke the flashing arrows, the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.

Proverbs 2:7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

Isaiah 31:5 Like birds hovering overhead, the LORD Almighty will shield Jerusalem; he will shield it and deliver it, he will 'pass over' it and will rescue it.

Matthew 9:22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."

And the woman was healed from that moment.

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Matthew 14:22-33 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "**Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.**" "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "**Come,**" he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "**You of little faith,**" he said, "**why did you doubt?**" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Luke 7:1-10 When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "**I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.**" Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

John 10:27-28 **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.**

Romans 3:22a This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Peter 1:8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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