

Armor of God- Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

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.

¹³ ***Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God***, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ ***Above all, TAKING the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

This is the first piece of armor we are told to take. In this piece we will begin to lay out what exactly the shield of faith is and as we will soon see, this faith is not our own, but that of Jesus Christ. This is the only piece of armor where Satan is emphasized in. This faith quenches all the fiery darts from him. We will now go back to the image of the Roman soldier to show the use of this shield. This shield covered the entire body of the Roman soldier from head to toe. See the image:



The Roman soldiers would create this type of setup when the enemy would launch their arrows of fire at them to repel the attack. In the spiritual sense, with our armor, this is how we are protected against *“the wiles of the Devil”*. The shield of faith is what does this. And just as the Roman soldiers, our shields are interlocked with one another to form this wall of faith so to speak. This is how we are *“knit together”* in Christ repelling the darts of Satan.

Colossians 2:2

²That their hearts might be comforted, **being KNIT TOGETHER in love, and unto all riches of the FULL ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;**

In this battle, we are knit together in not just love, but unto the full assurance of the understanding of the Mystery of God. It is in this faith of the Word in which we stand to repel the doctrinal lies of Satan. Paul’s word to us is *“above all”* when taking this shield of faith. This carries a significant meaning:

Ephesians 6:16

¹⁶**ABOVE ALL**, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Why above all? Remember the picture of the Roman shield covering all of the armor of the soldier. In other words, what good is the belt of truth if you have no faith in the truth? What about the Breastplate of Righteousness? What good is it,

if you do not have faith in what purchased the righteousness you have? How about the Gospel shoes of peace if you have no faith in this peace that was purchased for us? The shield of Faith covers all of this armor just as the shield covered and protected these same items on a Roman soldier to repel an attack. The same is for us in our spiritual armor. How appropriately did God Almighty show us our battle armor in the Roman soldier! Before we get into what this shield of faith is, we will first look at what it is **NOT**. This shield of faith is **NOT** our personal faithfulness to Christ, because quite frankly we are not that faithful. Our faith changes day-to-day. Sure we maintain belief but the strength of our belief is always challenged by Satan through the lies that are preached. The shield of faith is **NOT** our personal upstanding in the world. We know that we sin out of control daily (***Even a thought is a sin, Matthew 5:28***). The Shield of Faith could not be speaking about our personal faithful walk in the world because we certainly know that our walk is not faithful. This faith is also **NOT** the faith of another human being, i.e. someone saying that you believe in grace. This type of faith would be absolutely destroyed by Satan like a sledge hammer to an ant. So whose faith is it that protects us from Satan?

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶ Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, ***but by the FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST***, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, ***that we might be justified by the faith of Christ***, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

The shield of faith is the faith of Jesus Christ. Jesus came into the world with faith but had to grow in it. He was 100% man and 100% God. He lived as we did to identify Himself with us. God divested Himself of certain attributes to take on our lowly form and live as we do. Jesus Christ got hungry, He thirsted, He had to learn to talk, He had to learn to walk. He (***Jesus Christ***) also had to **GROW** into this faith as we do, though we could **NEVER** achieve the perfect faith that Jesus Christ reached. Someone may think this seems a bit off. Allow me to explain, that ***NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD***. Though He may have removed certain attributes of Himself to live in our lowly form, He still maintained 100% of His Godhead to do this. And shortly we will see that Jesus Christ increased as it says in the Word:

Luke 2:52

⁵² And *Jesus INCREASED in wisdom and stature*, and in favour with God and man.

How can God, who has everything and no need of anything possibly, **INCREASE?** He did this by identifying with our lowly form (*Laying aside His deity*) and lived as we do to identify with us. And as previously stated, nothing is impossible for God Almighty! Jesus Christ's faith came the same way as ours does:

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by *hearing*, and *hearing by the word of God*.

So how did Jesus Christ hear and come to the perfect faith?

Isaiah 50:4-5

⁴ The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: *he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to HEAR as the learned*.

⁵ *The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back*.

God opened His ears that He would hear when God spoke to Him and He was not rebellious and He listened. Can we say the same about ourselves? Certainly not! But Jesus Christ could. It was His opened ears that allowed Jesus Christ to speak what God told Him to say:

John 12:49

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, *he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak*.

There are 3 Components of this perfect faith:

1. Jesus Christ was perfectly obedient to the Father in what He said of Him:

John 8:26

²⁶ I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; *and I speak to the world those things which I have HEARD of him*.

John 15:15

¹⁵ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; ***for all things that I have HEARD of my Father I have made known unto you.***

2. He lived the perfect life:

Hebrews 7:26

²⁶ For such a high priest became us, ***who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,*** and made higher than the heavens;

1 Peter 2:22

²² ***Who did no sin,*** neither was guile found in his mouth:

Even Pontius Pilate found no fault in Jesus:

John 18:38

³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, ***I find in him no fault at all.***

3. Jesus was also perfectly obedient:

John 8:29

²⁹ And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; ***for I do always those things that please him.***

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and ***took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:***

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, ***he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

Only one person could do what God needed to be done to rescue humanity and that was Jesus Christ. All the things required to be done for perfect faith, Jesus Christ did even unto death. It is this shield that protects us, that is, the faith **OF Christ**.

Romans 3:22

²² ***Even the righteousness of God which is by faith OF Jesus Christ*** unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

The only faith that is required for us is in the death, burial and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. Once we believe this, God seals us (***Ephesians 1:13, Colossians 2:11***) and then Jesus Christ, living in you, takes over the journey and it is by **HIS** faith that brings you home.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless ***I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD,*** who loved me, and gave himself for me.

When we believed, we were crucified with Christ, and then rose with Him into the Heavens (***Ephesians 2:6***) and now it is Christ who lives in us here. It is by His faith that we live here and when the time comes, He will bring us home. Today we who believe are living by the faith of Jesus Christ and not our own. The Devil can't do anything against this faith and this is our shield of protection in the spiritual battle. I am sure that this has been very eye opening as it was to me as I typed this. May God bless you!

