

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

EPHESIANS 6:16

Text: Ephesians 6:16

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

Introduction:

Paul had often seen the shields of the Roman soldiers carried into war. The shields were made so that a row of soldiers could lock shield to shield forming a wall of defense. Such a wall would be difficult if not impossible for the enemy to penetrate. Each shield was big enough to cover the soldiers whole body. The darts and arrows hurled and shot at the soldier would hit the shield and fall harmlessly to the ground.

The wicked on throws many firey darts. One person he may attack with the darts of the lust of the flesh, wile another he attacks with the lust of the eyes, and still another he attacks with the pride of life.

Santan has thousands of wiles and he never gives up. He continually walking about seeking whom he may devour. If you successfully resist him now, he will come again later. We will never be out of range of Satan't

firey darts, but they can be quenched and rendered harmless by the shield of faith. Satan's firey darts cannot penetrate the shield of faith in God.

Note:

1. PRIORITY (ABOVE ALL)

Ephes. 6:16

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

A. Faith is necessary for Salvation

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 6:40

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:47

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Ephes. 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.

B. Faith is necessary for Service

Mark 9:23

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

C. Faith is necessary to please the Saviour

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. PRINCIPLE

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

A. Explanation

Faith gives substance to unseen realities. Just as one cannot see the wind itself or the scents that either makes our mouth water or brings a tear to our eye we know that they are real.

B. Example

Hebrews 11:2

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

The great patriarchs of the Old Testament were men of faith who obtained a good report.

Note these examples:

Hebrews 11:3-31

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. [4] By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was

righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. [5] By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. [6] But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. [7] By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. [8] By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. [9] By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: [10] For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. [11] Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. [12] Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. [13] These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and

pilgrims on the earth. [14] For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. [15] And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. [16] But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. [17] By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, [18] Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: [19] Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. [20] By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. [21] By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. [22] By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. [23] By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. [24] By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; [25] Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; [26] Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. [27] By faith he forsook

Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. [28] Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. [29] By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. [30] By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. [31] By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Abel: Worshiping Right

Enoch: Walking Right

Noah: Witnessing Right

3. PURPOSE

Ephes. 6:16

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

A. Protection

1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

4. PRACTICE

James 2:17-20

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. [18] Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. [19] Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. [20] But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

A. Live by faith

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Hebrews 10:38

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

B. Walk by faith

2 Cor. 5:7

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

C. Stand by faith

Romans 11:20

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

2 Cor. 1:24

Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

D. Give by faith

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

E. Move by faith

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

F. Obey by faith

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

G. Pass though by faith

Hebrews 11:29

By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

Close

That is why we are instructed that above all we take the shield of faith.