



SPIRITUAL WARFARE: SHIELD OF FAITH

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE
Ephesians 6:10-17

ADDITIONAL STUDY
Hebrews 11:32-34
Daniel 3:8-18
II Timothy 4:7

PRAYER

I take up the shield of faith and wade off every attack of the wicked one against my faith. I refuse to bow to anything contrary to the Word; I will continue to fight the good fight of faith, and I will finish my race on earth victoriously in Jesus' name.

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

The Apostle Paul, in our passage, wants believers to stand in the strength and power of the Almighty and to put on the whole armor of God (not some), in order to repel the attacks of Satan. Today, we will be considering "The shield of Faith." A shield is often used to intercept attacks or blows; it is held in the hand or mounted on the wrist or forearm. In medieval times, it was almost foolish to go into hand to hand combat without a shield to block sword blows and to block flying arrows. In the same way, spiritual warfare will be futile if the Christian does not have his shield of faith on. The devil is always striking blows of losses, discouragement, betrayal and offence. He is also always also shooting arrows of fear, doubt, slander, traumas, depression and all sorts of emotional hurts. These satanic arsenals must be blocked and parried away, else, the believer will become a victim of life. Faith in God is the shield to use. Faith is simply a confident trust and total reliance on what God's Word says. It is believing God above what the devil says, what your mind thinks or what people's opinions about you are. Faith believes that God will do what He says He will do; it is assured that what it doesn't presently see exists, and that in due time, God will bring it to pass. It is assured that God will ultimately vindicate, exonerate and bless, in spite of present negative circumstances. It believes that heaven and earth will pass away, but God's word stands forever sure. User's Guide on Using the Shield of Faith:

A) Find scriptural texts that address the sword blows or arrows satan is throwing at you. B) Write them on the table of your heart, or better still, in a book where you can see them. C) Put them in your mouth. Give voice to the Word. Confess them over yourself and against the arrows flying your way. D) Repeat first 3 steps as often as needed or daily. E) If symptoms persist...increase the dosage!

Satan may whisper thoughts like, "Don't you think if God wanted to do it, He would have done it by now?" "If the Word of God truly works, how come it hasn't worked for you?" "What if you don't get healed?" "What if you give to God and can't pay your bills?" "Seek alternatives." Don't be fazed by Satan's arrows, just use your shield of FAITH. Be like the three Hebrew boys whose shield of faith in God quenched satan's fiery arrows (literal fiery arrows, for they were thrown into a fiery furnace). Stand on the Word, declare it continually, do not shift grounds no matter the circumstance; continue to fight the good fight of faith because the victory is yours!

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