

BY PASTOR WALE AFELUMO

TAKE UP THE 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 wave 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

Apostle Paul in this passage, urges believers to stand in the strength of the Almighty by putting on the whole armor of God (one of which is the 'shield of faith') in order to resist Satan's attacks.

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, resisting Satan's attacks will be futile if the believer engages him without the shield of faith. The devil is always striking blows of losses, discouragement, betrayal, etc., and shooting arrows of fear, doubts, lies, and all sorts of emotional traumas. These satanic attacks must be blocked and parried away with the shield of faith, so the believer doesn't become a victim of life.

Faith believes that heaven and earth will pass away, but God's Word stands forever sure.

So, how can you effectively use the shield of faith?

- Find scriptural texts that address the sword blows or arrows Satan is throwing at you.
- Write them on the table of your heart, or better still, in a book where you can see them.
- Put them in your mouth. Give voice to the Word. Confess them over yourself and against the arrows flying your way.
- Repeat first 3 steps as often as needed or daily.

Satan may whisper thoughts like, "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?" Don't be fazed by these deceptive thoughts, just use your shield of FAITH. Be like the three Hebrew boys whose shield of faith in God quenched Satan's fiery arrows when they were thrown into a fiery furnace. Stand on the Word; do not shift ground no matter the circumstance. The fight of faith is a good fight because you always win.

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