

Introduction

The Shield of Faith...A shield is a defensive as well as an offensive weapon. The Roman Soldier would take the shield swing it one way to block arrows, a sword, hammer or spear and then swing it to the other side to inflict damaging blows to the enemy who may be in reach. The shields design during the time was made of very heavy leather and had spikes used to be the offensive weapon and would be wetted down as a retardant to the arrows that had been set ablaze. The enemy would dip the arrow into tar or some other flammable material, set it on fire and shoot it towards their target. He would have several targets in mind when the arrow flew. The primary target of course would be the warrior. The Arrow flew in hopes of first striking him in a vital place. When the enemy of our soul shoots, his primary target is in a vital area, our heart or spirit. Further the secondary target would be an extremity such as the leg, arm, shoulder, etc.

If that target is not hit he would hope that the third target be a building or wall which they wanted to catch ablaze...A building such as the place where weapons are stored, where the rations or food was stored, or any place where the leadership lived and or the soldiers lived. In like mind satan would settle for something that affects you outwardly in an effort to reach you. Children, Spouses, Friends, jobs, possessions...Look at the method he used to affect Job, he first started with the outward and slowly moved inwardly eventually affecting the body of Job. The shield of faith is what caused Job not to cry out, panic, doubt God during the initial onslaught of the enemy. Job trusted God so much that he said, the Lord gives and the Lord takes away but yet blessed be the name!!! Can you have a blessed be the name in the face of challenges that shake the faith of others.

In the shield of faith study we have 7 parts. Faith's relationship to the other armor, The priority of the shield of faith, the purpose of the shield of faith, the potential of the shield of faith, the protection of the Shield of faith, the possession of the Shield of faith, and the six the principles of the shield of faith with two parts underneath the principles of the shield of faith, first focus on your source of your faith and fortify the strength of your faith. As far back as the garden, the enemy has sought to shake our faith by removing our focus off God. If he can take your focus off of God then he can remove your foundation which is your faith.

I. Faith Relationship to the other armor

Faith is related to truth as our belief is our faith and our belief is firmly held in what is the truth. We talked about what the truth is...Simply put...What God says is truth. The faith is further related to the shoes of the gospel of peace as we are at peace based upon our faith and we must also know that the gospel is the good news. As righteous is related to the truth this gives kinship of our faith to the righteousness.

II. The priority of the shield of faith

The Apostle Paul stated above all... This is an emphasis that implies that your shield should be a very strong part of your armor... Faith being valued above all Christian attributes as faith takes you to all the other attributes. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. Confession of your faith is key to growth in Christ. Without faith the blows of the enemy makes a more impactful blow on your breastplate of righteousness.

III. The Purpose of the shield of faith

The shield of faith purpose is to ward off the attacks on our faith. Too effectively use the shield we must recognize the arrows or fiery darts used against us. One mistake which I want to address upfront is that the arrows of the enemy are many. He has many weapons in his arsenal, as many as there are temptations. He also uses varieties. And rotates them based on your action or inaction. If you seem to fall for the same thing over and over again he uses the same arrow to attack you each time... But if you resist him he uses more of the weapons in his arsenal and rotates them. So it is imperative upon the Christian to recognize the arrows and not forget arrows they have previously encountered.

IV. The Potential of the shield of faith

The word potential speaks to the capability of untapped ability. You could potentially be so much greater based upon what God has put in you. I can do all things... Did it say I can do some things? Another scripture speaks of God having plans, good plans... What Scripture is that? Now when God makes plans he resources so that his plans will not fail due to lack of resources. No it said within me is the potential to accomplish everything that God intended me to do. The shield of faith is only limited by your faith or lack thereof. Paul stated above ALL... All is such a small word but it has the potential to cover literally everything. In the Bible in 1 Cor 15:27-28 it speaks of how everything is subject to Christ and Christ is subject to the father. The word all encompasses situations, entirely.

²⁷For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

²⁸And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

-1 Cor 15:27-28

V. The protection of the shield of faith

Two shields were used by the Roman soldier. One shield was a smaller rounded shield which was used for close combat. This shield was when you would attack the enemy. Though we take an aggressive stance against the enemy this stance is vigilantly standing our ground. We are proactive seeing the

symptoms then heading off while in the early stages of the attack. We didn't start it, but we will finish it. Then there is the full shield. The full shield was rectangular shaped and several feet long. Wide enough and long enough to cover the average man. An important strength of this shield was when a column of soldiers would interlock with another shield and add even more protection to the body. It is obvious why this shield is the preferred shield of a warrior but also the best shield for the Christian. The bible tells us to pray one for another; this suggests that we interlock our shields to protect one another.

¹⁶Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

-James 5:16

VI. The possession of the shield

As a Christian we must strive to receive the shield. As we spoke on in the shoes and the other armor the shield has no value if it is sitting at home in a closet not taken to the battle field. God gives us a certain measure of faith, but he doesn't limit how strong or the potential of our faith. Utilizing the shield we take the Rhema word of God as applicable to the given situation. So merely possessing the logos or the full text of the bible in itself points you in the right direction and you will arrive close to your target but be slightly off center. In other words the bullseye is what we should be seeking.

VII. The Principles of the shield of faith

Pastor David Jeremiah speaks of the shield of faith as having two principles.

1. Focus on the source of your faith.

In essence what he is saying is to focus on who Christ is, what Christ has done, what Christ is doing, who we are in Christ. Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

-Hebrews 12:1-2

We are to look or focus on Jesus who is our source of faith. Far too often we focus on the problem and not the solution. Christ has what we need as the solution to all. A song says everything, Lord everything to me... David Jeremiah posed a question which was very interested. Is our faith in faith? Or is our faith in Christ? Christ being the source answers that question as our faith is in him.

2. Fortify the strength of your faith

A term used when it comes to exercise is no pain, no gain...Simply if you don't work for it, you will not have results and without results you have no strength. How does one fortify their faith? Faith requires learning the word, focusing on who your faith is in and exercising your faith. James and Isaiah lets us know that that faith without works is futile. The more you step out on faith using the promises of God as your inspiration...the stronger your faith becomes.

Wet down your shield of faith in the liquid praise of God almighty

PRAYER:

"Heavenly Father, I praise and worship you because you are God. I am honored to be your servant and I take my stand today against the devil and his schemes against me, my family and my ministry. Father, as I take up each piece of the armor, please secure it in place on me.

I take up the [shield of faith](#) and extend it over myself. It extinguishes all the fiery darts of the evil one.