

**Take up the Shield of Faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.**

## **REVIEW**

### **The Belt of TRUTH**

**The Belt of Truth is Jesus Christ and what He says! Jesus Christ is to wrap around us and He holds everything together.**

- You and I as Christians are in the spiritual battlefield on a daily basis. We need to put on a daily basis, the Belt of Truth, who is Jesus Christ, and allow Him to hold everything in your life!
- **The Breastplate to protect the heart**
- Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS...This is Positional righteousness Righteousness Imputed... Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.
- Practical righteousness...That is the daily Practice of our life.
- Proverbs 4:23 tells us:"Above all else guard your heart; for out of it are the issues of life"
- 1 John 3:21 "Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God."
- **Your Feet shod with the gospel of peace**

Two Kinds of Peace First, there is peace with God. Peace with God is what a person experiences when he or she first comes to the Lord for salvation.

Romans "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross...you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your minds by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled."

Second, in addition to this peace with God that is the birthright of all believers, there is also the peace of God.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.



**The Belt of Truth**

**Breastplate of Righteousness**

**Your Feet with Peace**

**We are to “TAKE UP the shield of faith**



The Roman shield was quite large, about 30 X 60 inches “It was made of 3 layers of wood sandwiched together making it a big thick plank of wood. It was covered on the outside with metal and sometimes even leather. This outer covering was very thick. The metal would deflect arrows, while the leather was treated with oil to extinguish the fiery pitch on the arrows.” Sometimes the leather would be soaked in water before battle, to help resist the effect of fiery arrows.



The edges of the shield were beveled so they could be interlocked together with other shields. A row of soldiers could kneel beside each other, lock in, and literally form a wall!

Now, there were 2 types of shields that the Roman soldiers were using at the time Paul wrote Ephesians. One was a small 2-3 foot round shield for dress parades. The other was the one they actually used for battle and it was a large 30” X 60” rectangular shield. In Greek it was named “a door”, because it looked like the soldier was actually carrying a door into battle.

### **The Ceremonial Roman Shield**

The first Roman shield that we will look at is one that was used only for public parades and ceremonies. This shield was a small round shield that was primarily a decorative piece of equipment. It was decorated with all kinds of etchings, engravings and was beautiful to see. Although this shield was very beautiful to see, it was never used in battle for it was just too small. This shield offered little to no protection for the soldiers who carried them. They were not designed for battle but for show. This was not the shield that Paul was referring to when he talks about the shield of faith.



### **II. The Battle Prepared Roman Shield**

The second kind of shield is the shield that Paul was referring to when he talks about our faith. This shield was wide in width and long in length. The shields that the Roman soldiers carried into battle were actually shaped like doors.



They were much larger than the shields that were used in parades and ceremonies. This shield completely covered the man. The battle-ready shield attached to a small clip on his belt when it was not in use.

This is an important point for you to remember, the shield clipped on to the belt that the soldier wore around his waist. This kept the shield readily at hand in case he needed it quickly. These shields were extremely tough and exceptionally durable. Because the Roman soldier's shields were made of leather, it was important for the soldiers to take good care of them. To keep the shields in good shape, the soldiers were given a daily schedule to maintain the excellent condition of their shields. Each morning when the soldier was awakened, he would reach for his shield, and would also reach for a small vial of oil. After saturating a piece of cloth with oil, he would begin to rub a heavy ointment of oil into the leather portion of the shield to keep it soft, and pliable.

If a soldier failed to provide this type of care for his shield, it could mean certain death in battle for the shield would dry out become hard, stiff and brittle. The other thing that the soldiers did to protect the shield (and themselves) was to soak their shields in water before going on the battlefield, another reason the shields were made from animal hide. They soaked their shields in water until the shields were completely saturated with the water. The reason they did this was because their enemies would shoot arrows that carried fire.

**With the shield you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."**

They tipped those arrows with pitch which burns slowly and intensely. It sets ablaze whatever target it hits. That's why the shield was very important. They designed it to protect the entire body.

So it was very important that the shield was taken care of. The shield provided protection for the whole body of the soldier. This is crucial for our understanding of our shield of faith. Our shields should be able to cover all of our exposed body during our battles just as the Roman's shields did.

The battle scene Paul has in mind when he says to us "take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one". But let us not forget Paul primarily has in mind a spiritual battle. A spiritual shield, in a nutshell the flaming arrows of the evil one are any spiritual struggles which cause us to be hesitant in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Flaming arrows are spiritual devices Satan uses to make us question our faithfulness to Christ.

I like how one translation goes: “In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan.” The arrow symbolizes everything that is against faith.

Paul is reminding us that the shield of faith is used **WITH** the Belt of the truth of Christ, The Breastplate of Righteousness and the Shoes of being prepared to give Good News of Peace. “In Addition to All This,” **TAKE** up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

**10 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power**

**11 Put on the Whole Armor of God**

**13 Put on the Whole Armor of God**

**14 Stand Firm with the Belt of truth, with the Breastplate of Righteousness**

**15 with your feet fitted (or shod) But then the wording changes in verse 16.**

**“Above all, TAKE the shield of faith” 17 “TAKE the helmet of salvation and TAKE the sword of the spirit.”**

The shield, the helmet and the sword are our responsibility to pick up.

### **First we ask, what is faith?**

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Being sure and certain are **CHOICES!** We must choose to be sure and certain. This is how we “Take” the shield of faith, by making the choice to be sure of what we hope for and making the choice to be certain of what we cannot see.

II Corinthians 4:18 “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” To fix your eyes on something is a choice. We must choose to focus on the unseen, for that is what is eternal, and in doing so we “Take” the shield of Faith.

Romans 10:17 “Faith comes by hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” We can “Take” our shield of faith by hearing God’s word. Through hearing God’s word our faith will increase.

**So the shield of faith** -- this is not saving faith. This is the faith in God, God’s promises, it’s claiming God’s promises, trusting God’s character, and applying God’s truth, and holding it up to deflect the lies and the darts, whether they be fear, accusation, condemnation, or whatever.



It is the shield that protects the rest of the armor...out in front; it is the operating force which makes the rest possible. When properly placed, the shield will quench ALL the fiery darts of Satan. Paul says pick up the shield of faith. What kind of faith? Well, it all begins with saving faith, but Paul is talking to believers. Perhaps he's referring to daily, practical faith in our daily lives.

**1. Daily faith is rooted in fact, not feeling.** We need to place our faith in facts, not feelings. God will never contradict His Word. "Feelings come and feelings go, for feelings are deceiving. My trust is in the Word of God.

**2. Faith has nothing to do with probability.** It is not probable that a little shepherd boy could kill a giant with a slingshot. Probability says no, but faith says yes."

Doubt sees the obstacles. Faith sees the way.

Doubt sees the darkest night. Faith sees the day.

Doubt dreads to take a step. Faith soars high.

Doubt questions who believes? Faith answers I.

**3. Faith has nothing to do with appearances.** Appearance may say that God is nowhere to be found. Faith says, "He will never leave me, nor forsake me." Appearance may sometimes say all things are gone haywire. Faith says, even the hairs of my head are numbered! God is in full control. Appearance told the disciples, there's no need to fish any longer, we have tried all night in vain. Faith says, launch out into the deep, because Jesus said so!

**1. Faith grows gradually.**

You don't obtain strong faith all at once any more than an infant becomes an adult all at once. It takes time, proper nutrition, and exercise.

**2. Faith grows Scripturally.**

Faith comes by hearing...the Word of God. Faith is trust. And the way you come to trust someone is by getting better acquainted with them.

**3. Faith grows painfully.** Paul was a great man of faith. He suffered much for the Lord. And the two things go hand in hand.

A little boy couldn't get a puzzle to go together...the last few pieces. He was so frustrated. He asked his little sister to help. In seconds she had done it. He asked her how. She showed him the front of the box. "I looked at the picture. You were looking at the pieces."

**The shield of faith speaks to us of the ability to meet the attack regardless of the direction it comes from. It is mobile; It is our responsibility to position it where it is needed.**

**Your faith is attached to the Word of God. Your faith and its strength is directly tied to your knowledge and understanding of God's Word, the Word of God is not attached to our faith; our faith is attached to God's Word.**



**I thought about the turtle is more than the outside shell but the life within...so it is for the Christian the faith within because we walk not by site but by faith!**

### **III. Taking Care of the Shield of Faith**

**The soldiers would rise from sleep early in the morning the first thing they would do was to oil down their shields in order to make sure they were ready for battle. This was a daily routine that ensured that the soldiers were protected when they went onto the battlefield. Remember, if they failed to do this on a routine basis, their shields could fail leading to them being killed in the battle. Because the shield is representative of our faith, we all need a fresh touch of the Spirit's power upon our lives to keep our faith from becoming hard, stiff and brittle.**

**When we ignore our faith, allowing it to go undeveloped then when a challenge comes, our faith won't be soft and pliable enough to stand up under the attack...Do not make the assumption that our faith is always in top notch condition. Instead, play it safe and assume that your faith needs a fresh anointing. Taking this approach, you will always seek to do what is necessary to keep your faith alive, active and well.**

**Mark 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

## **Questions and Comments**