
Opening Text: Ephesians 6:10-18: (V16): “ABOVE ALL”

In the doctrine of mortification, or in “killing and putting off” the old man, there is also the “putting on” of the new man. In the list of “Christian Adornments” that we are to put on; “agape love” has the preeminence.

Colossians 3:14, 1 Peter 4:8

But in spiritual warfare and in the Christian’s resistance to the devil, faith, likened to a shield, has the preeminence as the most important piece of the Armor of God, TO BE TAKEN UP “ABOVE ALL” the other pieces of this spiritual Armor.

Ephesians 6:16: “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked”

I want you to see (3) things tonight in (V16): 1st: This piece of the armor, this shield is “true and saving faith”. 2nd: The shield of faith has preeminence over all of the other spiritual armor. 3rd: The fiery darts of the wicked one are able to be effectively quenched by the shield of faith.

1st: The shield of faith is saving faith, faith that is alive, operative faith and a faith that works! Hebrews 11:1

You can’t see your enemy whom you are to resist, but you can certainly see his influence, his temptations, and his wiles if you are spiritually sober and vigilant as Peter taught us:

“Be sober, be vigilant, (do this now) because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour, whom you are to resist steadfast IN THE FAITH of Christ!”

Consider each piece of a Roman Soldier’s armor is designed to protect his entire body. BUT THE SHIELD is not affixed to any part of the body, unlike the girdle, breastplate, greaves/shoes for the legs and feet, or helmet; NO, the shield is MOBILE, and able to be moved to protect ANY part of the body that is being attacked by the enemy.

As the Roman Soldier’s shield protected his whole body, the Christian Soldier’s shield of faith shields and protects the soul from the devil’s attacks! Psalms 3:1-3, 5:11-12, 84:9-12

YOUR FAITH in Christ, given to you when God saved you, child of God....is your defensive shield!

1 John 5:4-5, Ephesians 4:27, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9

Remember, we walk (as Christians) BY FAITH, not by sight, AND...we WAR and RESIST the devil BY FAITH, we wrestle NOT against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

You see how important your faith in Christ is; ONLY by faith are able to stand and withstand in the evil day!

That is why the shield of faith is the most important piece of the Armor of God! 2nd: “Above All taking the shield of faith”

Faith is THE SHIELD that protects every other piece of the Armor of God that you are to “have on”; FAITH is the shield that deflects/absorbs the devil’s attacks.

Faith protects the truth that you believe when you’re under attack! Faith protects your heart, (your righteousness and integrity), faith keeps you sure footed and established in the gospel of Christ.

Faith guards your helmet of salvation (your mind, heart, affections, will), and we’ll get to the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The sword of the Spirit and shield of faith are battle buddies. But for now we focus on FAITH which is your shield Christian.

Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 2:20

Finally, ONLY the shield of faith is able to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked. (Or of the wicked one)

Remember that a faithless Christian is a defenseless Christian. Faith is above all!

What are these fiery darts but temptations, wicked and unholy thoughts, fired into your mind by the devil when you do not expect them? Satan wants to incite and inflame your sinful lusts and passions, and he knows where you’re weak and defenseless. He wants you to get angry and sin; he wants you to speak maliciously to your brother or sister in Christ.

The devil wants you to think evil malicious thoughts; if he can get you to entertain sin in your mind; he knows that he is one step away from you actually committing that sin.

Christian: The devil cannot make you sin; he just sets everything up for you to sin!

If you don’t have FIXED/FOCUSED FAITH on Christ and His holy Word, if your affection is in the world and not in heaven, your other armor is gonna get hit.

Think of truth, righteousness, the gospel, prayer, and your own salvation UNDER ATTACK without FAITH in Christ to defend and shield it, and resist, and to extinguish and quench the devil’s fiery darts!

Remember, we are to RESIST the devil STEADFAST IN THE FAITH!

“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” *1 John 4:4*

Your shield will only be effective in quenching all the fiery darts of the wicked one when you take it up by faith!

Jude 1:20, Colossians 2:6-7