

EPHESIANS 6:16 THE SHEILD OF FAITH PART 2

INTRO:

- This verse also introduces us to the 4th article of armor, the shield of faith.
- Now the mention of these weapons are pictures of spiritual truths.
- This faith shield is trustworthy, it is large, and it is able to quench "all" the fiery darts/arrows of the wicked one.
- He is able to come at us from every conceivable angle.
- Trial, temptations, accusations, persecutions, doubts, fears, lusts, the deceitfulness of riches, just to name some.
- This shield must be taken up and it must be large.
- This shield must be held up and to be of any practical use it must stand, be held up, between our souls and the fiery arrows.
- This shield is unique in that it protects all the body/soul. Not just the breast, feet, or head, but all.
- Faith must rest on the God of the word, and the word of God
- God's word does not profit us if unmixed with faith; for faith makes the word live and Gods word always comes to us with faith.
- We will attempt to discover what faith the apostle is writing about and what type of faith he is not talking about.

Read Eph. 6:16

- Above all= in addition to all. (in every circumstance?)
- Shield= A large shield used by the heavy infantry. It's size was 4-4.5' X 2.5' It was the largest of all their shields. Some were completely rectangular and later were made oval.
- Like us these shields were made of combustible material, We too are combustible.
- Fiery darts= Arrows dipped or tipped with combustible material, pitch or tar, then set of fire.
 - So fitting a description for the devils stinging temptations and trials.
 - These fiery darts, if not caught with the shield, could set the victim on fire, enflaming him, or burst open and spread to those around him.
 - What an apt picture of sin and temptation. If struck we burn with jealousy, envy, anger, and lust to name a few.
- The wicked= wicked one, evil one, pernicious one.
- Here we are to consider ourselves ready for satans attacks by taking up the shield made up of "faith."
- We must be skilled in the use of this shield...

Let us begin then with the questions, what faith is this and what it is not!

IT IS NOT A GENEREAL FAITH:

- It is not a human, carnal, general or natural faith.
- Natural human faith is a faith of presumption and not real faith.
 - Acts 19:13-16 Son of Sceva.
- This faith cannot quench the fiery arrow of the wicked one.
- This faith cannot stand against satans attacks, accusations, temptations and the like.
- Mere human optimism cannot defeat this supernatural enemy.
- This is a dead faith and is actually no real faith at all.
- It does not bring them, or carry them, into God. Into a relationship, real and personal with God.

- THIS TYPE OF FAITH WILL NOT DO!

- **IT IS NOT A TEMPORARY FAITH;**
 - Satan's darts would quickly extinguish this faith.
 - This faith makes bold declarations when all is well, when emotions run high, but this faith endures but for a while,
 - For when the fiery darts, trials, temptations come it soon evaporates and disappears.
 - Mk. 4:14-19
 - Even Judas had this faith, for he was granted the gift to heal the sick, and even cast out devils, Mt.10: 1-4
 - in these things he reveled, but he became filled with pride, covetousness, greed, hypocrisy and treason.
 - And finally he became inhabited by the devil himself.
 - He died in despair and disgrace.
 - This faith took him to the bottomless pit.
 - Judas knew the scriptures and mentally accented to the truth of them, but he never had one ounce of real faith, the justifying faith in his soul.
 - Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who believed and who believed not.
 - Jn. 6:64, 65; But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

- THIS TYPE OF FAITH WILL NOT DO!!

IT IS NOT AN INTELLECTUAL FAITH:

- Many people believe there is a God. But their faith is not a saving faith, a living faith.
- The devil himself has this type of faith, but to no profit, and no life.
 - James. 1:17; you believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the **demons believe—and tremble!**
- Before Peter declared who the Christ was the devils confessed the same.
 - Mt. 8:29; And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, **You Son of God?** Have you come here to torment us before the time?”
- They knew and believed what was true of who Jesus was but it was not a saving knowledge or saving faith.
- Satan agreed with the word of God when he used it against Christ.
- He did not dispute them and even quoted them. Mt. 4:6; it is written...
- Agreeing with the truth is just an act of understanding which any being with some intellect or human understanding can do.
 - **THIS TYPE OF FAITH WILL NOT DO!**