

## EHPESIANS 6:16 PART 3 THE SHIELD OF FAITH

### INTRO/REVIEW:

#### Not a human/carnal faith:

- Not presumption (7 sons of Sceva)
- Human optimism, or vain empty hope.
- THIS TYPE OF FAITH WILL NOT DO!
- Not a temporary faith:
  - This faith is moved by emotion.
  - Moved by circumstances. John 6:66, **MK. 14:27-31, 41, 50, 71.**
  - Judas had this faith. (Mt.10:1-4, sending out)(MK. 4:14-19 seeds)
  - THIS TYPE OF FAITH WILL NOT DO!
- Not an intellectual faith.
  - Many people say they believe in God, or things about God, but it does not connect them to the God they say they believe. (believe into!)
  - The devil believes, and trembles. (James 1:17) Not saving faith.
  - Satan quotes the word of God, devils confess Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, Judas does miracles, but none have or had saving faith.
  - THIS TYPE OF FAITH WILL NOT DO!

### THE FAITH THAT WILL DO! (Justifying, Humble, Active, Working.)

#### 1) JUSTIFYING FAITH:

- **Rom.4:3-5 , 5:1**
- Justifying faith abides secure both in the mind and in the will.
- In Rom. 10:10; it is called "believing in the heart", In Acts 7:37 "believing with all the heart."
- Justifying faith is born of the Holy Spirit and it permeates all the powers of the soul and mind.
- It is the act of the Spirit empowered soul, whereby it rests on Christ crucified for pardon and life.
- This faith's object is Christ crucified.
- It is a faith that rises in the soul and breaths hope into the troubled, tried, tired and trembling heart of the true child of God.
- It is faith in Christ that appropriates salvation and is the channel of continued blessing and strength as it trusts in Him for daily provision, strength and help.

#### 2) IT IS A HUMBLE FAITH

- It is a humble faith for it does not originate in us. (in man)
- It cannot be worked up by man's efforts.
- It cannot be drummed up or increased in the soul by the will of man.

- This faith does not point to itself, it points to God and His word, and in this God Himself is glorified.
  - **Rom. 4:19-22**
- It is not faith in faith.
- Man is not its author. God is.
- It is a gift of God.
  - 1 Tim. 1:13, 14; <sup>13</sup> although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup> And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
  - Eph. 2:8; <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that
- Its resting place is not in men, but in the character and Word of God.
- PS. 28:7; The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.
- Faith borrows all things needful from God.

### 3) ACTIVE EFFECTUAL FAITH:

- Faith is a choice, a discipline, and our ability, willingness to take it up will be based on how well we personally know our God.
- 4 Times the bible repeats itself instructing us to take up the shield of faith, Hab. 2:4; the just/righteous shall live by faith. (Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 11:38)
- Faith here means the ability to apply quickly, to take up, what we see and believe, in God and His scriptures.
- This faith is to be ready and in use at all times.
- It is the taking up of the shield of faith.
- God is the object of this faith and this faith looks to Him.
- What is this shield of faith made of?
- It is made up of the character of God and the word of God!
  - Heb. 11:1; Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
- In this sense, it is God Himself. He it is who stands between us and our enemy, between us and the fiery darts, between us and destruction.
- The better I know Him, the more assured and confident I am in my protection and help, and the more quickly I will take up the shield of faith.
  - 2Tim. 2:12 I know whom I have believed and am persuaded.
- This faith is the large shield, able to protect us from all the designs of the enemy, principalities, powers, world rulers of darkness, the wickedness in high places, and all sinful temptations. For we fight not against flesh
  - 1 JN. 5:4; for whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this
- The Christian faith is firm, unyielding and completely dependable because it rests on and in the immutable, unchanging, faithful character of God.

- **PS. 9:10; And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.**
- **10:23; Let us seize *and* hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable *and* trustworthy *and* faithful [to His word]; (AMP.)**

#### **4) THE SHIELD OF FAITH AT WORK:**

- **Prov. 30:5; Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.**
- **The great serpent comes seeking to destroy and he knows how and where to attack us. Shooting his fiery arrows at our souls.**
- **FIERY DARTS OF:**
- **Temptations:**
  - **1 Cor. 10: 13; No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.**
  - **2 Cor. 10:5, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**
- **Ease or Drifting:**
  - **Eph. 5:14-17, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**
- **Forgiveness:**
  - **Mt. 6:14, 15; <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**
  - **Eph. 4:32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**
  - **Can I be forgiven:?**
  - **1 JN. 1:9 If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our.**
  - **Isa. 1:18; "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.**

- **Insecurity and Fear:**
  - Heb.13:5, 6, For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you, so we may boldly say: "The LORD *is* my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
  - PS. 56:3, 4; whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You
  - Prov. 29:25; the fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.
  - Ps. 84:11; For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
  - Rom. 8:31-39, If God be for us who be against, what can separate?
- **Anxious:**
  - Phil. 4:6,7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"
  - Mt. 6:25; Take no thought for our life.
  - Ps. 5:12, For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield
- **Unloved:**
  - Jer. 31:3; The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.
  - Isa. 49:15, 16; "Can a woman forget her nursing child, <sup>[a]</sup>And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. <sup>16</sup> See, I have inscribed you on the palms of *My hands*; Your walls *are* continually before Me.

**CONCLUSION: MAKE THE CHOICE TO TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH!**

**Josh. 21:43-45** So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. <sup>44</sup> The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. <sup>45</sup> Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

- Ps. 18:30;

**MK. 11:22;** So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. (hold on to the faithfulness of God)

- *In the secret of His presence how my soul delights to hide!  
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side!  
Earthly cares can never vex me, neither trials lay me low;  
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go,*