


The Shield of Faith
Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction: Living a consistent walk with God is not easy. The world we live in is often moving in a direction that is opposed to God. Our own sinfulness tempts us to live contrary to God at times. And beyond these things Scripture is clear that we have a very real enemy in this world. The devil is not just a fairy tale figure or metaphor for the bad things in the world. He is real and he is opposed to God and God's work in our lives. Thankfully, we are not without protection. The Apostle Paul describes the spiritual armor that is available to each believer that we might stand strong against this foe. Though each part of this armor is vital, today we are focusing especially on the shield of faith.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

1. Paul talks about the reality that we are engaged in a spiritual battle with a devil who schemes against us (v. 11) and other spiritual forces of wickedness (v. 12). In your day-to-day life, how conscious are you of the reality that there is a spiritual battle going on?
2. What encouragement does this passage give us in the spiritual battle?
3. How does what Paul says in vv. 11-18 relate to the command in verse 10?
4. What are the pieces of the armor that we are told to put on?
5. Paul uses a shield (see below) to represent faith. How did a shield protect a soldier?
6. Why do you think he used this metaphor for faith?

7. What is this faith?
8. What are some of the "flaming missiles" that you sense are aimed at you right now?
9. What might it mean to take up the shield of faith against such flaming missiles?

<p>ARMOR OF GOD Shield</p> <p>The curve was created using three bonded layers of thin wood strips. Covered by linen or leather, the shield was painted according to legion. A bronze rim covered the rounded edges as additional protection.</p> <p>Scripture: English Standard Version</p>		<p>ARMOR OF LEGIONARY Scutum (Shield)</p> <p>Overlapping shields allowed soldiers to advance together</p> <p>Shield was used to defend the entire body, including the back</p> <p>ARMOR OF GOD Shield of Faith</p> <p>"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one..." Ephesians 6:16</p> <p>Copyright 2008 Logos Bible Software/R. Rolfe</p>
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