

**Prepared for the War-Part 3**  
**Take Up Your Shield**  
**March 09, 2016**

When you think of a soldier wearing a helmet and having a sword, what else do you think of regarding armor? Most of us have the image of a Roman soldier who also has a shield. This piece of armor is the next I wish to discuss in this series.

**Ephesians 6:16 - above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

Wielding a sword and having a helmet are effective but not on their own. A shield is used to protect those areas that are exposed. As we continue to advance in this spiritual war and take down the enemy's forces by the authority in Jesus Christ, we must also guard ourselves against other attacks used to put us off guard. As we are fixed on one target, others may be coming against us in areas we are not focused on. This is how the enemy operates. He sends forces to combat us in one area and as we are warring in that area another area may be undefended. We use our shield to cover those areas that are exposed to the enemy as we continue to fight with our sword. The devil does not fight fair. There are no rules of engagement in his process. As we grow in the Lord through understanding our identity and authority in Him, the more the enemy will try to take us out. Our faith in the Lord is our shield (our protection).

**Hebrews 11:1-3 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.**

**Psalms 119:114 - You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.**

**Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

**Matthew 17:20 - ...for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move**

**from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.**

Our faith is our shield against the weapons from our enemy. Even when the enemy tries to catch us off guard, it is our faith that will make those attacks of no consequence; "quenching the fiery darts of the wicked one".

**2 Samuel 22:2-4, 31 - "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. 4 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies....31 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.**

Our shield that protects us against the fiery darts of the enemy is our Lord through our faith. Our faith is our trust and belief in our Lord; that He is who He says He is and will do what He said He will do. Our faith grows as we are tested (when God turns what the enemy meant for evil into something useful and good). Our faith grows stronger as we become more and more obedient to our Lord no matter what we may be facing or how the enemy tries to come against us. The more we come to trust God the greater our faith becomes. The greater our faith becomes the less exposed we are to the "fiery darts" of the enemy.

**Romans 8:28-31 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

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