

## Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6: 13- 18

1/5/03

### Intro

- Mid-week service coming in February.

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In this last section Paul wants to warn the Ephesians and then equip them for spiritual victory. He tells them that he wants them to be able to stand firm against the schemes of the enemy, the devil.

In verse thirteen Paul says that we have a struggle in this world; that much is certain. We are all aware that there are many struggles, but our greatest struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of wickedness.

Because of that Paul wants us to be able to stand firm, to be able to resist in the evil day.

In order for us to be able to resist, we must take up the full armor of God.

The previous message on this focused on the first three pieces of armor that we should take up and today we will be studying the next piece of spiritual armor, the shield of faith.

**In these verses then, we will discover insights into the shield of faith so we can stand in the evil day.**

### **I. Why do we need a shield?**

#### A. A shield is for defense.

- A shield in that day was made of wood, leather, and metal.
- About 4 ½ by 2 ½ in size.
- Strapped to the arm for easy maneuvering.
- Often times connected together for greater effect.

### B. Attacks were often fiery ordeals.

- In battle, soldiers would often wrap arrows with cloth, dip them in pitch and light them on fire.
- The shields would be soaked in water so when the flaming arrows were used, they could be quenched.

### C. What are some flaming missiles of the evil one?

- Temptations, problems, division, lies, depression.
- Doubt and mistrust of God.

**Examples:** 1) In the Garden of Eden; “Did God really say that? He was lying, you won’t die. He was afraid that you would be like Him.”

2) In the desert with Jesus, “Feed your desires, you don’t need God’s will in your life,” “If God’s Word is true, then let’s put it a test,” and finally, “You don’t need to worship God, I’ll give something better.”

3) In the Apostle Peter, “Jesus doesn’t know what He’s talking about, you know better than he does, Peter.”

### **II. What is faith?**

#### A. My personal confidence in God.

- Heb 11:1 Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- My belief in the strength of His power.

**Illus – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**

**(Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah) said to Nebuchadnezzar, “Our God is able to save us from the**

**blazing furnace, but even if He does not, we will not bow down.”**

**2 Tim 1:12** “... nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

B. My trust that He is committed to me like a father would be to his son.

- Jesus said, “If your son asks for bread, would you give him a stone? If he asks for a fish would you give him a snake? How much more will your father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?”
- God is the One who causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.
- Rom 8:32 If God did not hold back from giving us His Son, would He not freely give us all things?
- God is even able to redeem my mistakes.

**III. How can we use our faith as a shield?**

A. Stand behind it.

- Our first response when troubles and problems come.
- “I know God is able to walk with me through this fiery ordeal.”
- “If God is for me, who can be against me?”
- “I know God will use this for His glory.”

B. Hook your shields together.

- Together, we are much stronger against attack.
- Even Satan is not divided against himself.
- United we stand, divided we fall. How true in the church.
- Find someone you can hook your faith to.

C. Behind faith, we move forward.

- We walk according to our faith.
- Heb 11:32-34.

**Heb 11:32-34** “And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.”

**Conclusion**

**This was Hudson Taylor’s spiritual secret. He learned how to put his complete faith in God by resting in Him.**

**The name of the Lord is a high tower, the righteous run into it and are saved.**