

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Ephesians 6:16--July 30th, 2023



## **Sermon Recap:**

### **The Armor of God: Shield of Faith**

If we are going to stand firm on the day of evil, against the schemes of Satan, then we must have a living and active trust in God.

#### **I. What is the Shield of Faith?**

Biblical faith contains three elements: knowledge, assent, and trust.

##### **a. Knowledge**

- Faith starts in the mind. Faith knows the Word, relies on the Word, and believes the Word.

##### **b. Assent**

- Faith is present in our hearts. The knowledge in our mind is accepted, welcomed, and received in our heart. It goes beyond knowledge to a conviction of the certainty of truth.

##### **c. Trust**

- This conviction plays out through the will as faith consists of a personal trust in Jesus Christ.

#### **II. Why Do We Need the Shield of Faith?**

##### **a. Armor of Armor**

- The soldier's shield protected all other pieces of armor.
- We can never have sincerity, righteousness, peace, or salvation without faith. Faith protects all other characteristics and disciplines of the Christian. It is absolutely paramount and essential in the believer's life.

##### **b. Quench Darts**

- The shield of faith extinguishes the hail of fiery darts that Satan rains down on believers.
- Common arrows being fired by Satan: doubt, fear, despair, accusations, false teachers/doctrine, sinful desires and passions.
- Faith protects the believer from the burns, wounds, and death of these fiery darts.

#### **III. How Do We Take Up the Shield of Faith?**

##### **a. Hear the Word**

- Fill your heart and your mind with the word of God. Hear the word, so that your faith will be strengthened.

##### **b. Pray to the Author**

- Prayer is an expression of faith. It is a display of laying down our self-righteousness and independence and surrendering to him in a trusting faith.

##### **c. Stand Together**

- Soldiers would interlock their shields to protect one another.
- Christians need one another. We need community and fellowship in order to encourage and strengthen the faith of one another.
- We stand together in faith to protect our brothers and sisters.

##### **d. Look to Christ**

- Christ is the object of our faith.
- Our circumstances may change and attacks may come, but Christ remains the same forever.
- By accepting this knowledge as absolute certainty, we can trust in his person, promises, and presence in all circumstances.

## Discussion Questions:

- What is the shield of faith?
- Why is the common understanding of faith in culture and church?
- What are the three elements of faith?
- Which piece of armor is most essential? Why?
- How does faith extinguish the darts of doubt? Fear? Despair?
- How do we receive and strengthen our faith?
- Why do we pray?
- What role does faith play in fellowship?
- What is faith founded on?

## Application:

- Are there areas of your life where you feel that you are engaged in spiritual warfare?
- Has there been a time recently when your faith in God was a shield for you?
- How can reflecting on that time strengthen your faith for future attacks?
- Where does your faith most struggle?
- What darts are most commonly fired upon you? How can knowledge, assent, and trust aid you in blocking those attacks?
- Which of the four practices (point three) to take up the shield of faith do you find most strengthening?
- Which of the four could you improve on?
- What practical steps can you, your family, and/or your church do to take up the shield of faith?

