

**Series "Our Riches In Christ"**  
**"The Shield"**  
**Ephesians 6:16**  
**Study-29**

**Ephesians 6:11 stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

**Schemes** - means "*methods, tricks, deceit*" of the Devil.

Paul says, Satan comes with **flaming arrows of the evil one.**  
**(fiery darts, fire-tipped arrows) 2 Corinthians 10:3-4**

**Thought Of The Passage:** "Believers Will Receive Flaming Arrows Of Doubt, Lies, Discouragement, But The Shield Of Faith Will Protect Us"

- 1. Description Of The Shield:**
- 2. Meaning Of The Shield:**
- 3. Necessity Of The Shield:**

**1. Description Of The Shield:**

**Ephesians 6:16 in addition to all, taking up the shield –**  
There were 2 different shields that were used in Paul's day.

- 1. The Shield Of The Greek Solider:** It was small and round shield about 2 feet in diameter. It was secured to the arm by 2 leather straps. It was light weight and was carried into battle to protect against the blows of the sword at close range by their opponent in hand to hand combat.
- 2. (Pictures Of Shields) The Shield Of The Roman Solider:** It was large, about 2 to 2 1/2 feet wide. It was 4 feet tall and was intended to protect the entire body. (Roman soldiers were much smaller than typical people of today)

**shield** - is the Greek word by which we get our word "*Door.*"  
Think of it as a door!

It was made of one solid piece of wood or 2 pieces that were joined together. It was then covered with cloth, then either leather or metal. The top and sides were edged in metal so that the shield would interlock with the shields of the other soldiers.

**flaming arrows**, or "*fiery darts, flaming missiles.*" The opponent would take pieces of cloth and wrap the tips of arrows and dip them in pitch or tar, then they would ignite them just before shooting them. On impact they

would splatter burning tar that would cause severe burns and ignite things on fire.

The soldier would soak his shield in water prior to battle so when the arrows hit, they would be extinguished.

### **The Shield Achieved 3 Important Purposes:**

- 1. Protection For The Entire Body Of The Soldier:**
- 2. Shield Interlock To Form A Wall And Barrier:**
- 3. The Shield Extinguished The Flaming Arrows:**

### **2. Meaning Of The Shield:**

**Ephesians 6:16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith –**  
**What does Paul mean by Faith?** There are 3 different usages of faith.

- 1. "The Historical Faith"** the true gospel message of the death burial and resurrection.

**Ephesians 4:4-6; Jude 1:3**

He said, **the shield of faith**, not **the faith!** Paul is not speaking of the Christian faith or embodiment of truth.

- 2. "Saving Faith"** The faith to believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life.  
**Ephesians 2:8-9**

- 3. "Practical Faith"** It is the faith that daily trusts in Jesus Christ. It is trusting in: Faith is not faith unless it is at work. This is a living faith.

### **Practical Faith Involves 4 Areas!**

- 1. Faith In A Person:** Jesus Christ is the object of the Christian faith.  
**John 14:6**

- 2. Trusting In God's Promises:** God has given us magnificent promises.  
**2 Peter 1:4; John 1:1**

- 3. Trusting In His Power: John 11:25-26** God is able to empower us to face any task; any temptation that comes our way.

- 4. Trusting In God's Providence:** God is in control. He is working all things after the counsel of His will. **Romans 8:28**

**flaming arrows of the evil one.** These are the temptations that Satan shoots at believers.

### **3. Necessity Of The Shield:**

**Ephesians 6:16 in addition to all,** what does he mean by this phrase? **addition** - "*above all else, or first thing, first in importance.*" Faith is essential to every part of the armor. We must incorporate Faith in each piece.

- 1. Belt Of Truth** - Must put faith and trust in the truth. Live a life of integrity.
- 2. Breastplate Of Righteousness** - Faith in God's righteousness and living daily living practical righteousness.
- 3. Shoes Of Peace** - Faith in the gospel.
- 4. Shield Of Faith** - Faith in Jesus Christ daily.

**taking up the shield of faith,** we need to pick it up! It starts with a relationship with Jesus Christ, then it is daily putting our trust in Him.

**Habakkuk 2:4** This why Habakkuk could say this: **Habakkuk 3:17-19**

**Habakkuk 2:4 the righteous will live by his faith.**

This is quoted **3 times** in the New Testament.

**Romans** - explains "**the just.**" Declares that all mankind are sinners. Paul explains how the sinner can be justified before God (**Romans 1:17**)

**Galatians** - explains how the just "**shall live**" (**Galatians 3:11**)

**Hebrews** - discusses "**by faith**" (**Hebrews 10:38**)

**The Shield That Covers:** The only hope for us is the shield of faith, provided for us by Jesus Christ.

**Arrow of Doubt** - was the first arrow shot. The first arrow was at Eve in **Genesis 3**

**Arrow Of Covetousness** -

**Arrow Of Fear & Worry** -

**Arrows Of Confusion** - **1 Corinthians 14:33**

**Arrow Of Discouragement** -

**Arrow Of Sickness -**

**Arrow Of Death Of A Loved One -**

**Arrow Of Pride - 1 Chronicles 21:1**

**Arrow Of Bitterness** - The offense from others, without forgiveness will produce bitterness, that will burn through us to others.

**The Shield That Links:** *Those that held these shields were the one's in the front line of the battle. They interlocked the shields together. Some would form a chain over a mile long. Those that were not holding the shields were throwing spears or shooting arrows.*

**Ephesians 4** There is to be a character of unity. They're doctrines of unity.

**Is our shield linked to the other soldiers on the front line?**

**Hebrews 10:25**

**The Shield That Extinguishes: Ephesians 6:16 extinguish all –**

There is no arrow that can get past the "Shield Of Faith"

**the flaming arrows** - Two things about the arrows:

1. God does not want us to be hit. He has done everything possible to protect us.
2. God does not want us to be the cause of others getting burned.

**of the evil one.** Literally *"The wicked one, The vile one, The wretched one"*  
**1 Samuel 17:38-39**

### **Application:**

1. Faith In A Person: Jesus Christ is the object of the Christian faith.  
**John 14:6**
2. Trusting In God's Promises: God has given us magnificent promises.  
**2 Peter 1:4; Romans 10:17; 1 John 2:25**
3. Trusting In His Power: **Romans 8:11** God is able to empower us to face any task; any temptation that comes our way.
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