

In Addition to All, Take up The Shield of Faith

(Ephesians 6: 10-19)



The writer to the book of Hebrews gives the most definite and solid meaning of faith: the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). Who can understand faith, when never gone through difficulties? The measure of faith in one's life is seen through hard times. Everyone has a certain

applied degree of faith outside the spiritual. It is an important ingredient essential to life. Faith removes the doom and gloom of today's when one has faith for a better tomorrow. Faith is a lifter upper brightening hope in whatever we hope for. But faith is much more than that when its shield is taken up in the spiritual battle field. The Bible says that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. That is, not against humans. It is against the devil and his forces. Paul uses the Roman armor example to symbolize the armor of God's proficiency in its use in every spiritual battle.

Faith is used as a shield. A shield means protection. The Roman shield was a very important piece of the armor used for that purpose. But it was not only used for protection, it was also to push out the enemy. It was made of wood-covered in hide. When wet it extinguished flaming arrows. The Roman shield had an impressive size: almost three and a half feet tall and three and a half feet wide; its curve provided means of deflection against the enemy's attacks.

Paul associated a shield with faith because of its profound ways to protect, defend, and guard the soldier against the attacks of the enemy. The spiritual shield functions to guard our spiritual life when we are in the midst of trial. We see this example registered in the book of Daniel chapter three, when his three friends chose not to obey the order of King Nebuchadnezzar to worship his stature. The king said to them, If you do not worship, you shall be cast at once into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, and who is that god who can deliver you out of my hands? The three friends of Daniel answered the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, it is not necessary for us to answer you on this point. If our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden image which you have set up! The king commanded that the furnaceshould be heated seven times hotter than it was usually heated (Daniel 3: 15b- 19b). Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into it. These young men, although under the wrath of king Nebuchadnezzar, overcame the fiery furnace of his wrath by the protection of the shield of faith. Their faith was rooted in the love they had for their God. That served as a testimony for the king, who, after seeing how God delivered them, praised God saying: Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Who has sent His angel and delivered his servants who believed in Him! And they set aside the king's command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore, I make a decree that any

people, nation, and language that speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be cut in pieces and their houses be made a dunghill, for there is no other God who can deliver in this way! Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon (Dan. 3: 28-30). The scenario here carries a prophetic meaning which will happen at the time of the tribulation when peoples of all nations will fall down in adoration to the antichrist. But God's saints will be persecuted and be overcome by the antichrist (Rev. 13:7).

The shield of faith provides a wall of protection against the enemy's attacks. It must be lifted up to extinguish all the darts that come from the evil one. As it was for the Roman soldiers under the protection of the shield, so it will be for us, when we take up the shield and use it for our spiritual protection. The shield not only extinguishes the fiery arrows, but also deflects them from us. The functions of the shield are several: (1) **to guard** (2) **to deflect (to defend)**. It must be used when necessary. We are not to be dressed with it, but we are to take it up when necessary. The countless times we find ourselves in defeat, it is because this important part of the armor of God has not been used. Prayers go up to heaven pleading for protection from the enemy's attacks but God has already given us the means to fight and to defend ourselves. His instructions are written in His word. But we rather go to the battle field dressed in jeans and tennis shoes, than dressed with His armor. We do not know how to because we do not read His word. Many of us don't even believe that Satan's power is at work against us, because, they say "We are covered with the blood of YAHSHUA." If we do not remain in Him, and His word is not affecting our daily living, we are unprotected and vulnerable to the darts of Satan. The power of the word of God will be manifested in us when we follow His instructions.

Strong faith cripples and thwarts Satan's attacks. It shortens its aims and they fall short of accomplishing his purposes. They cannot break through the strength of the shield of faith. It is not in what we see that we experience faith; it is not in good times that we experience or exercise faith. But it is in the unseen, which we hope for. It must be tested through adversities. Peter said that we are guarded by God's power through faith; the genuineness of our faith has to be tested; the proving of our faith is intended to redound to our praise and glory and honor when YAHSHUA the Messiah is revealed (I Peter 1: 5-7). Yes, we believe that it is by faith that we acquire salvation. It is a fact registered in our heart and mind. We

must believe also that it is by lifting of its shield that the power of protection, and defense and garrison will thwart and extinguish the power of Satan's arrow coming against us.

We must continually be clothed with the full armor of God... and in all circumstances we must take up the shield of faith with which we can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one (Ephesians 6: 11,16). The word faith produced the word faithful. One cannot be faithful without faith. To be found unfaithful to God is a result of a faithless life style. It is also not believing that He exists; it is living a life not pleasing to Him. It is not being established in Him and in His word.

YAHSHUA said, Let not your heart be troubled, believe! Believing only exists by faith. When we raise up the shield of faith we extinguish all the flammable arrows of doubt. That opens the way to victory and to our spiritual success. Faith has two purposes: to save and to protect. We can only use its shield after we apply it for our salvation. It progressively gets stronger through experience.

The shield of faith... don't get in the battle field without it!

THINK ABOUT IT!