

ARMOR of GOD - Spiritual Warfare Wear

Week 4 - FAITH - A "Flame-Resistant" Faith"

We're in the fourth week of our study in Spiritual Warfare.

- Week One: Truth – Knowing Right from Wrong
- Week Two: Righteousness – Doing Right from Wrong
- Week Three: Peace – Being at Peace in the Midst of Battle
- Week Four: Faith - a Flame-Resistant Faith

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

WHY "FIREY ARROWS?"

- Are regular arrows not bad enough?
- Fiery arrows do more damage.
- Fire spreads! Even after initial impact more damage is done.
- Shield held in Left hand covering left side: Protecting Heart!

1. DEFINING MY FAITH

Belief VS Faith

- **Belief** is accepting something as TRUTH.
- **Faith** is giving your life to what you BELIEVE.
- Believing something – doesn't mean you have faith in it!
- Example of a parachute!
- Belief is not enough!

2 Corinthians 4:18

*"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen. [Circle "unseen."]
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." [Circle "eternal."]*

A. Faith Requires ACTION

James 2:17

So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all - it is dead and useless.



WHY SHOULD I ENTRUST MY LIFE TO GOD?

There are huge benefits

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace [Circle "peace."] with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully [Circle "confidence & joyfully."] look forward to sharing God's glory [Circle "sharing God's glory."]

B. Faith Gives Us PEACE

- It gives us peace because you don't have to worry about fear or doubt or lies or confusion anymore.

C. Faith Gives Us CONFIDENCE

- God can handle ANYTHING that comes your way!
- Like walking a BIG DOG!

D. Faith Gives Us JOY

- Not happiness. Happiness is superficial. Happiness comes and goes, but joy is everlasting.

E. Faith Gives Us SECURITY

- You know that, no matter what happens, because you have given your life to Christ, you've entrusted who you are to Jesus that, whenever you die, you'll spend eternity with Him in heaven.
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2. DEFENDING MY FAITH *(what are fiery arrows?)*

A. FEAR

When you're scared, you're weak.

B. DOUBT

We doubt GOD

- "Does God really know what He's doing?"
- "Is His word really true?"

We doubt OTHERS

- "Thy say they're a Christian, but they don't live the lifestyle."

We doubt OURSELVES. We ask God questions like:

- "God, do You really love me?"
- "You don't know the mistakes I've made."
- "Do You really care about me?"

C. LIES Satan is the Father of Lies! We begin to believe the lies:

- "I'm not smart enough..." "I'm not popular enough..."
- "I'm not pretty enough..." "I'm not athletic enough..."
- "I'm not sensitive enough..."

D. CONFUSION

- "My friends are saying *this*. God's saying *this*. The world's saying *this*. I don't know!"

E. TEMPTATION – Signature Sins

- Satan does not know everything.
- Satan is good at Perception.
- Satan will watch how we act, and he will tempt us according to our reactions.

F. **WORDS** – Words hurt (*stick and stones...that song isn't accurate!*)

- We've all been wounded by words. When we hurt, we doubt.
- When we doubt – we question and lose faith in God!

3. **DEEPING** MY FAITH

If I'm **INVESTIGATING** my faith, I should:

A. Start **SMALL**

- Start with a relationship, addiction, gossip.

Luke 17:6

"Even if you had faith as small as a mustard seed," the Lord answered, "you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May God uproot you and throw you into the sea,' and it would obey you!"

If I'm **STRUGGLING** with my faith, I should:

B. Ask **FOR HELP**

- Movie: 300 - Shield of your neighbor covering you!

If I'm **SOLD OUT** in my faith, I should:

C. Remember God's **FAITHFULNESS**

- He's seen you through before – He'll get you through now

1 Samuel 12:24

"Be sure to fear the Lord and sincerely worship Him. Think of all the wonderful things He has done for you."

One Last Thought:

Believing isn't enough . . .

You must make the **DECISION
to define, defend, and deepen your faith.**