
The Shield of Faith (Quenching The Fiery Darts of Doubt)

Keys To Our Spiritual Armory

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Sermon: Keys To Our Spiritual Armory: The Shield of Faith (Quenching The Fiery Darts of Doubt)

Lesson Text

Ephesians 6:16 (KJV) ¹⁶ **Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**

Mark 4:35–41 (KJV)³⁵ And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, **Let us pass over unto the other side.** ³⁶ And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. ³⁷ And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. ³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? ³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?** ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Introduction

Previously we looked at the weapon of prayer from the perspective of praying in the spirit with continuous prayer (influence), supplication prayer (inspiration), and spirit-led prayer (spirit).

Today we will look at another weapon in our armory, the shield of faith.

Faith is perhaps one of the most important weapons in our spiritual arsenal:

- It's the foundation of salvation (Romans 10:9 – Confess and Believe)
- It's how we hear God (Romans 10:17 – Faith comes by hearing)
- It's the source of our Power (Matt 17:20 – Faith to move mountains)

So why do we have limits to our faith, or stop believing all together? It is because of the fiery darts of the wicked that are constantly shot at us.

The fire-tipped darts are the arrows of doubt, dipped in the combustible materials of life, set on fire by Satan, and shot at us constantly in a malignant evil effort to destroy our faith in God.

There fiery darts are constantly creating doubt in us of our abilities, our insecurities, our cares, our relationships, our calling, our power, and more.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

And so, in our Spiritual Armory is the Shield of Faith, a large oblong object designed for full protection. When the enemy shoots these fiery darts of doubt at us, we hide behind the shield and allow it to quench their fire, and cause them to fall harmlessly to the ground.

Our lesson text teaches us how to use the shield of faith in three areas when the enemy attacks us – In our calling, in our cares, and in our fears.

Series and Sermon: Keys To Our Spiritual Armory: The Shield of Faith (Quenching The Fiery Darts of Doubt)

(Fiery Darts Of Your Calling, Fiery Darts Of Your Cares, Fiery Darts Of Your Fears)

I. Quenching The Fiery Darts Of Your Calling

Mark 4: ³⁵ And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, *Let us pass over unto the other side...* ³⁷ *And there arose a great storm* of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

The first set of fiery darts we face as believers are the attacks on our calling.

Matthew 22: ¹⁴ *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

The key to walking in one's calling is faith.

Hebrews 11: ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

And so, the reason why so many are not walking in their calling is because of the lack of faith – fiery darts of the wicked that cause us to doubt our calling.

Mark 4: ³⁷ And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

Anytime God calls you, there will always be a storm of resistance to keep you from the other side of that calling.

- Storms of self-doubt (insecurities and inadequacies)
- Storms of afflictions and troubles (cares and vicissitudes of life)
- Storms of people and adversaries (offenses, betrayal, and personal attacks)
- Storms of environments and atmospheres (strongholds and principalities).

When Jesus called Peter to walk on the water, the fiery darts attacked him.

We must use the Shield of Faith to Stop the Fiery Darts Attacking Our Calling

To overcome Self-doubt – Philippians 4: ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

To overcome Afflictions – Psalm 34: ¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

To overcome Adversaries – Isaiah 54: ¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; ...

To overcome Atmospheres – Psalm 22: ³ ... *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

II. Quenching The Fiery Darts Of Your Cares

Mark 4: ³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, ***carest thou not that we perish?*** ³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

The next set of fiery darts we face as believers are the attacks on our basic cares and needs.

These cares and needs include things like protection, sustenance (food & water), shelter, affection, finances, and significance (importance).

And when these things are missing or threatened, it attacks one's faith and creates doubt concerning their calling.

Mark 4: ³⁸ ... and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, ***carest thou not that we perish?***

Jesus, are you sleeping? "My marriage is under attack; I've been diagnosed with cancer; I've been laid off; my family or children are estranged; how am I going to make it; am I even needed, ..."

Mark 4: ¹⁹ **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

Matthew 6: ³⁰ **Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?**

We must use the Shield of Faith to Stop the Fiery Darts Attacking Our Cares

It may seem like He's sleep: Psalm 121: ⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Mark 4: ³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Matthew 6: ³⁴ **Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

Matthew 6: ³³ **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

1 Peter 5: ⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Philippians 4: ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

III. Quenching The Fiery Darts Of Your Fears

Mark 4: ⁴⁰ And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?** ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

The final set of fiery darts we face as believers are the attacks on fears.

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Sometimes people say we shouldn't have fears, but many of the biblical patriarchs had fears.

- The disciples had fears during the storm on the water.
- Peter walking on the water had fear and began to sink.
- Elisha's servant had fear when they were surrounded by the enemies:
- Joseph's brothers had fear after they tried to destroy him:
- Jairus had fear when they told him his daughter was dead:

Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the fear that has said its prayers. Fear that has used its shield of faith.

We must use the Shield of Faith to Stop the Fiery Darts Attacking Our Fears

2 Timothy 1: ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Jesus used the shield of faith: Mark 4: ³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still**. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Elisha used the shield of faith: 2 Kings 6:16 (KJV)¹⁶ And he answered, Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them.

Joseph used the shield of faith: Genesis 50:20 (KJV)²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Jairus used the shield of faith: Luke 8:50 (KJV)⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard *it*, he answered him, saying, **Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.**

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Shield of Faith (Quenching The Fiery Darts of Doubt))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 6:16, Mark 4:35–41

Sermon Outline

- I. *Quenching The Fiery Darts Of Your Calling*
- II. *Quenching The Fiery Darts Of Your Cares*
- III. *Quenching The Fiery Darts Of Your Fears*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. In the last year, what is one thing God has taught you or shown you that you’re grateful for?
2. Choose this or that: a) Turkey or ham or chicken? b) Pumpkin pie or sweet potato pie? c) Rice or macaroni and cheese? d) Football or board games? e) Black Friday shopping or staying at home?

II. Into The Bible

1. In verse 39 Jesus “rebuked” the wind and said to the sea, “Be still,” a command that echoes his rebukes of unclean spirits in Mark 1:25 and 3:12. What is Mark signaling about Jesus’ authority, and how does Psalm 107:23–30 illuminate this scene?
2. Trace the movement from fear of the storm to “exceeding fear” after the calm in verses 40 to 41. What does this shift reveal about the purpose of the miracle and the disciples’ growing grasp of Jesus’ identity and faith in Him in Mark?

III. Life Application

1. Use several scriptures to build a personal shield of faith for your cares.
2. How is the shield of faith similar to the sword of the Spirit? How do they differ?