

“Be STRONG In The Shield Of Faith”
Ephesians 6:16
9/11/22
Series: Be STRONG In The LORD
Message 5

Introduction

- Title Of The Series: “Be STRONG In The LORD”
- Title of the Message is: “Be STRONG In The Shield Of Faith”

• Review - Amidst a Series – BE STRONG In The LORD

- **1st We talk about...**
 - The Christian life is a
 - BATTLE GROUND
 - NOT a PLAYGROUND!!!
 - We are NOT JUST
 - CHILDREN of God
 - BUT SOLDIERS in the Lord's ARMY!
 - The Church is a...
 - BATTLESHIP
 - NOT a Cruise ship
- **2nd NOW - We REALLY Don't like the Idea that We're in a WAR**
 - 1st We don't want to think of the Christian life as a Battle, War!
 - 2nd We Want Ideal!!!

- If we are honest with ourselves, we all want the Ideal Easy life

○ **3rd Messages So Far!**

▪ **1st Be STRONG In THE Lord**

- 1st Consider Our Enemy and his Strategy
- 2nd Consider our Source of Power (JESUS)
 - We DON'T fight FOR Victory
 - We Fight FROM Victory
- 3rd Call to STAND!!
 - To Stand Strong IN the Lord and IN the Power of HIS might

▪ **2nd Be STRONG In The TRUTH**

- The Belt Of Truth Holds everything together
 - Truth Holds Everything together
 - Critical we are Anchored in His Truth

▪ **3rd Be STRONG In Righteousness**

- The Breastplate Protects The Heart
- We Looked At 3 types of Righteousness
 - Self-Righteousness
 - Positional Righteousness
 - Practical Righteousness

▪ **4th Be STRONG in The Gospel Of PEACE”**

- “FOOTWEAR For FIGHTING”
- Special Shoes for Standing Strong – For Fighting
- Shoes Represent
 - The Gospel
 - Peace WITH God
- Shoes Impact our Lives
 - Peace OF God
 - Protects Against Satan’s Lies
 - Protects Against False Teaching
 - Protects In Trials
- **4th NOTE: There are 2 DIVISIONS - HAVING & TAKING**
 - As we go through the Armor, I want you to note 2 things
 - **1st HAVING**
 - The First 3 Pieces of Armor Paul says...
 - “Having” girded waist with truth
 - By using the word "HAVING" puts this in the past tense
 - So when did this happen?
 - The moment you Received Christ!
 - The first 3 pieces of armor deal with who you are in Christ. Your position
 - **2nd TAKING**

- The Second 3 pieces of Armor
- The verb usage is different - Present Tense –
- “Take Up” the Shield
- “Take Up” the Helmet
- “Take Up” the Sword
- These three pieces of armor are aspects of Christ that we must deliberately TAKE UP
- Take up again and again whenever we are under attack.
- **3rd ALL the Armor POINT to Jesus**
 - Jesus is TRUTH! (John 14:6)
 - Jesus is RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - Jesus is PEACE (Eph. 2:14)
 - Jesus is FAITHFULNESS which possible our faith (Gal. 2:20)
 - Jesus is our SALVATION (Luke 2:30)
 - Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14)

• **Now This Morning 2 Powerful Truths About The Shield Of Faith**

- The Application - What Faith Looks Like
- The Aim - That We Grow In Faith

The Application - What Faith Looks Like

• **First: Context v. 16**

○ **1st Above ALL v. 16a**

Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

- Above ALL = This has the idea of “**In Addition to the Previous**”
 - It is NOT that – the Shield of Faith is more important than the others
- Wuest K. S.; “The “above all” of verse 16 is ambiguous. The thought in the original is, “in addition to all,” that is, in addition to all the equipment just mentioned, the Christian should add that mentioned in verses 16 and 17.”
- The ESV & NASB95 says...

Ephesians 6:16 (ESV)

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

Ephesians 6:16 (NASB95)

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

○ **2nd Taking the shield of faith... v. 16b**

Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

- **1st What is the “Faith”**
 - Now the First question we want to deal with is what is the faith Paul is referring to?
 - 1st THE Faith –
 - Meaning the fundamental faith –

- The major doctrines of the Bible
- 2nd SAVING Faith
 - Saved BY Grace and Faith
- 3rd A Practical FAITH / Everyday Faith
 - Remember TAKING UP
 - *Wuest, K. S.; “This shield which the Christian soldier uses is faith, a present faith in the Lord Jesus for victory over sin and the hosts of the devil.”*
 - *Martyn Lloyd-Jones; “Faith here means the ability to apply quickly what we believe so as to repel everything the devil does or attempts to do to us.” (The Christian Soldier [Baker], p. 305)*
 - It is NOT a Magical Power
 - It simply means to “TRUST” - Do you trust God?
 - *Illustration:*
 - *One commentator used this analogy to explain this faith:*
 - *When missionary John Paton was translating the Scriptures for South Sea islanders, he was unable to find a word in their vocabulary for the concept of believing, trusting, or having faith.*
 - *He had no idea how he would convey it. One day while he was working in his*

hut, a native came running into Paton's study & flopped into a chair, exhausted.

- *He said, "It feels so good to rest my whole weight in this chair."*
 - *Instantly John Paton knew he had his definition: Faith is resting your whole weight on God. That meaning helped bring a whole civilization to Christ.*
- Are we living in this faith today?!
 - Are we resting our whole weight on God?
 - Are we GROWING in our Faith!

• **Second: HOW is FAITH like a SHIELD? - 4 WAYS**

- **1st Faith Is Like A Shield Because it - Protects us Against Attack**
 - **1st Context - The Roman Soldiers had 2 shields in Paul's day!**
 - 1st A Small Round one
 - It was Light - Attached to wrist
 - For hand-to-hand combat – made of Bronze
 - **Show Pic x 2**
 - 2nd A Large One –
 - 2 1/2 feet wide and 4 to 5 feet tall
 - **Show Pic x 2**
 - Made of Solid wood - covered with leather or bronze

- 3rd It is the LARGER Shield Paul is referring to here
 - These shields were sometimes referred to as doors because they covered the Whole man!!!!
 - Called a Door - Crouch Behind – **Show Pic**
- 4th Protects from Attacks From the Enemy – Fiery Darts
 - In those days one of the finest weapons of the enemy was the arrow!
 - Shoot from distance - any angle
 - Take their shield and squat behind it and be completely protected!
 - NOW –
 - The enemy would often take these arrows and rap the tip with cloth - covered with pitch
 - Light on fire - become flaming missiles!
 - Hit target not only - Puncture but burn
 - Too Combat this
 - Before going into battle they would often soak the leather on the front of their Shield in water
 - So that when these flaming arrows would hit the shield the dampness would cause the flame to go out.
- **2nd Application for us**
 - Faith is Represented as a shield
 - Protecting us from the fiery darts of the wicked one

- *Those persistent efforts of demonic foes to weaken us through fear and unbelief, thoughts, feelings, imaginations, fears, and lies – all of these can be hurled at us by Satan as fiery darts.*
- Faith turns them back.
- Just like the leather that covered the shield was soaked in water
- To extinguish the fiery darts.
- As our lives are Soaked in the **Water of the Word of God** –

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- AS Our faith grows
 - Those flaming missiles of the enemy are quenched
- Are we SOAKING our lives in the WORD of GOD
 - Question
 - How Much time are you spending in the Word of GOD?
 - Listening to bible studies
 - Praying
 - The Answers to these questions
 - Will determine how you're doing Spiritually

- How we're doing at quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- It takes FAITH to believe the FACTS
 - Faith = Fact in Being STRONG in
 - 1st The BELT of TRUTH
 - God's Word is TRUTH
 - God said it – THAT IS FACT – whether I believe it or not
 - The Three 'I's of Scripture:
 - Inspired
 - Inerrant
 - Infallible

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- 2nd The BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - It Takes Faith to Remember
 - We are covered in the Righteousness of Christ!!!!
- 3rd Shoes Of the GOSPEL of PEACE
 - It Takes Faith to Remember

- That we IN CHRIST at Peace with God which enables us to EXPERIENCE THE Peace of God in our Lives
- 3rd The Helmet of Salvation
 - It Takes Faith to Remember
 - Assurance that we're Saved
- 4th The Sword of the Spirit
 - It Takes Faith to Remember
 - To stand on & Use the Word of God –
 - BELIEVING it will not RETURN VOID
- 5th The Prayer of faith –
 - It Takes Faith to Remember
 - The Lord Honors
- 3rd SO - Hold FAST to these PRECIOUS PROMISES

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- Faith is one of the Greatest gifts

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- Saved By it

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- We have been justified through faith

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- Faith is the doorway to hope in God

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- Because we have faith in God – We are strong In Suffering

Romans 5:3–5 (NKJV)

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.
5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- We OVERCOME the World

1 John 5:4 (NKJV)

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

▪ **Let's stay behind the shield of faith and we will be safe**

- **2nd Faith Is Like A Shield In That - It's Going To Take Hits**

- WE WILL TAKE HITS from the fiery darts of Satan

- Not a question of IF – BUT WHEN
- Satan's Darts
 - 1st Can Come at us any time
 - Even when Reading God's Word
 - Crazy Thoughts can come and attempt to distract us
 - 2nd They come in all shapes and sizes
 - Thoughts of Temptations
 - Failures – PAST & PRESENT
 - 3rd Anything, he can throw at us to -
 - Attacks our Faith
 - Our Position in CHRIST
- **3rd Faith Is Like A Shield In That - It Needs To Be Well Handled**
 - Notice – the apostle says to take the shield of FAITH...
 - Difference between Faith and Belief
 - Belief = Who we are IN Christ
 - Faith = Faith is Acting on Belief!
 - Faith "Trusting God"
 - Involves looking at our circumstances and at the promises of God
 - AND deciding to rely on God...

- **Common Fears - That can hinder our walks with Jesus**

- **1st FEAR**

- One of Satan's biggest Missiles is FEAR
- All the "What if" in life
- **Alan Redpath "Fear is the greatest enemy of our faith."**
- Faith reminds us that we are already Victorious
- God is true to His Word

- **2nd I am I Even Saved**

- Maybe you're fearful that you have blown it so bad you even wonder if you are saved?!
 - You're Sin is too great!!!
 - The enemy comes and whispers - your sin is great!
 - Respond: yes, but He is able to save to the uttermost!
 - His GRACE is great then our capacity to sin
- Key to Faith
 - Faith looks away from oneself and to God alone for Help!
 - Well listen to this promise for those who are IN Christ

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

- **3rd Does God really hear my prayers?**

- When the enemy comes and attacks me during prayer saying - He doesn't hear you!
- It is with the shield of faith that I remind myself of

Psalms 34:15–18 (NKJV)

15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

James 5:16 (NKJV)

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- **4th How can a Sinner Like me Serve HIM**

- REMEMBER...
- Jacob was a cheater
- Peter had a temper
- David Committed adultery and Murder
- Noah got drunk
- Jonah ran from God
- Paul was a murderer

- Gideon was insecure
 - Miriam was a gossip
 - Martha was a worrier
 - Thomas was a doubter
 - Sarah was impatient
 - Elijah was depressed,
 - Moses stuttered
 - Zacchaeus was short
 - Abraham was old
 - Lazarus was dead.....
 - God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the Called!"
- 5th Fear of Suffering or Enduring hardship for your Faith

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

John 16:33 (NKJV)

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- **4th Faith is like a Shield in that it - Advances!!!**

- A tactic the Roman soldier would use to ADVANCE

- They Would ban together with their shields standing side by side shields up & overhead

- **Show Pic**

- Make a human tank
- March on their enemy
- United & bound together
- Covered by their shields

- **Lesson # 1 – We're in this Battle together**

- To me this is a perfect picture of what the Lord can do when His people are bound in faith!
- We're not alone in this warfare!
 - Satan would like you to think you're alone!
- That why it is so important we come to church!!!

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- When we come to church
 - 1st Get Comfort Knowing we are not alone
 - 2nd You give strength to others
 - Our focus should not be on what's in it for BUT what's can I GIVE to others

- **Lesson # 2 - We Advance!!!**

- God Is LOOKING for Those who will STAND

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV)

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.”

Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV)

30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

- The Lord says I am looking for those who will in faith make a stand /
- Who will thru faith step out in ministry
- LIKE
 - Elijah stood against prophets of Baal
 - Gideon and 300 men stood against army that # like the sand!
 - Apostles preached so boldly
 - Will we step out and go for it!!!

The Aim - That We Grow In Faith

• **First: Remember He is Faithful**

- **Don't try to Work UP Faith - Rather look to the Lord Himself**
 - He is Trustworthy

2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV)

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

- **Second: Do not trust in FEELINGS - BUT trust in the sure Word of God**

- Faith must often stand against feelings
 - God's Word is the compass to guide you when you're lost in the fog of trials
 - The world's counsel may seem right, but the counsel of God's Word is always faithful and true
 - Follow Him, not your feelings!

- **Third: Meditate on God's Promises**

- Memorize them
- Hold Fast to them
- Remember the Examples He has given us –
 - How faithful He is in the lives of Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Peter, Paul, etc...
- Journal –
 - When we do and look back it will help us to see He has already been so faithful

- **Fourth: Trust God's Plans**

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- **Fifth: Ask the Lord Jesus to Increase Your Faith**

Mark 9:20–24 (NKJV)

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, *"How long has this been happening to him?"* And he said, *"From childhood."*

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

23 Jesus said to him, *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."*

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

- **Sixth: Surrender - Trust to God**

- The sin of self-reliance is a prime example of lacking trust in God.
- If you are not trusting God, then your faith is based on something else.
- DIE to SELF

- **Seventh: Take Your Thoughts Captive**

- Many Christians struggle with doubt

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

- **Eighth: Focus on the Needs of Others**

- JOY- Jesus, Others, you

Closing

- Every person lives by some form of faith.
 - We cross a bridge with the faith that it will support us.
 - We eat food trusting that it is not poisoned.
 - We put our lives in the security of airplanes, trains, ships, buses, and automobiles, confident that they are safe.

- But FAITH in God is
 - The BEST
 - It is immeasurably more reliable and more important than the practical, everyday faith by which we live
 - Are FAITH in Christ – will NEVER fail
 - Because the One in whom that faith is placed never fails