



RCC Phoenix – 2.13.22 – Armor of God (Week 6)

Ephesians 6:10-18 NLT

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

The Shield of Faith

The shield was large, rectangular and _____.

It was made of 3 alternating layers of laminated wood strips (plywood), covered in felt and _____ - _____, with a large iron boss at the center.

The shield could _____ the entire body of the soldier.

1. What Are “Firey Arrows”?

The reference to “fiery arrows” has two implications:

- i.* Arrows that are _____ on _____ before being launched toward the enemy.
- ii.* Arrows with _____ that caused pain & burning in the limbs of the enemy.

Adam Clarke Biblical Commentary:

The fiery darts of the wicked, or devil, are evil thoughts, and strong injections, as they are termed, which in the unregenerate inflame the passions, and excite the soul to acts of transgression. While the faith is strong in Christ it acts as a shield to quench these. He who walks so as to feel the witness of God's Spirit that he is his child, has all evil thoughts in abhorrence; and, though they pass through his mind, they never fix in his passions. They are caught on this shield, blunted, and extinguished.

John Gill's Exposition of the Whole Bible:

And they may be said to be "fiery", because they serve to inflame the mind, and excite to sin, as lust, anger, revenge, and the like... from these customs, and ways of speaking, the apostle borrows his phrases; and suggests, that the shield of faith is of use to quench the fiery darts of Satan's temptations; so that they may not have the malignant influence they are designed for; which is chiefly done by faith's dealing with the blood of Christ.

2. How do we _____ up / _____ up the shield of faith?

a. We _____ with having faith in Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

b. We _____ our life through faith in Christ

Hebrews 11:6 NLT

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."

3. The Shield Is A _____ Weapon

The shield was covered in the skin of a calf or lamb to put out any flaming arrows.

4. The Shield Is an _____ Weapon

While charging at the enemy, the soldiers would use the shield and the iron boss on the front to knock down the enemy.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Unlike the breastplate, which was fixed in place, the shield could be moved and used in different directions and for different purposes.

5. What are some areas we can use the shield of faith?

- _____

Mark 5:33-34 NLT

“Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”

- _____

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 NLT

“If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

- _____

2 Corinthians 5:4-9 NLT

‘While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it’s not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee He has given us his Holy Spirit. So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please Him.”

- _____

Philippians 4:18-19 NLT

“At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.”

6. Soldiers _____ Their Shields Together

Hebrews 10:23-25 NLT

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”