

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, March 10, 2013

“Everyday Armor
Part 4 – The Shield of Faith”
(Conclusion)

Ephesians 6:16; Hebrews 11

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

Review of Previous Week...

...Shield of Faith

1. Protects us from attack – faith covers us completely
2. Living in faith means we can link up to other Christians of faith
3. Protects us from the flaming arrows

WHAT ARE THESE ARROWS?

- a. **Revelation 12:9** - *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.*
(Deception)
 - i. Present tense – continually leading astray
 - ii. The arrows were designed to do two things
 1. Injure
 2. Cause panic
 - iii. Not only wound but their destruction spreads if left unchecked
 1. Dipped in tar (pitch) and lit before firing
 2. Drips onto the target and spreads the fire
- b. What deception?
 - i. Thinking that is contrary to the Word of God
 - ii. Doubt – in the garden and in the desert
 - iii. Anger; jealousy; pride
 - iv. Worthlessness
- c. The fields where the battles are raging are the **heart**, the **body** and the **mind**
 - i. If Satan can lock our minds with fear, anger, jealousy, pride then he has won a great victory because like the yeast it works its way all through us (Gal. 5:9)
 - ii. Faith and obedience protect us from those arrows of deception

1. Math 19:17 – Jesus talking with the rich, young ruler
2. Exodus 19:5 – God speaks to Moses about obedience

Why is the shield so strong and able to so thoroughly protect us?

- Because God is our shield
 - God told Abraham, the father of believers, “*I am your shield*” (**Genesis 15:1**).
 - Moses told God’s people, “*Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield*” (**Deuteronomy 33:29**).
 - David said, “*The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped*” (**Psalms 18:32**).
 - The book of Proverbs declares, “*Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him*” (**Proverbs 30:5**).
- Shield in the original Greek – Magen (mah-gain) – defend, cover or surround

Paul has told us that the use of the armor is active – so should our faith be

1. Buckle the belt
2. Take up the shield
3. Put on the breastplate
4. Feet fitted

Active Faith in the Bible

1. Abraham – leave his land; sacrifice Isaac
2. Moses – return to Egypt; standing at the Red Sea
3. Daniel – in the lion’s den; Nebuchadnezzar
4. David – before Goliath; military battles
5. The Disciples – seeing the miracles of Jesus
6. Paul – speaking contrary to all he had believed his whole life
7. Jesus – the ultimate example of active faith

Active faith when the enemy’s arrows fly means...

1. Knowing your circumstances – (wisdom and common sense)
 - a. One of the heights of spiritual ignorance and pride is to think you cannot fall into temptation
2. Knowing God’s promises for your life – (the Word)
3. Choosing to believe and obey God – (make up my mind)
4. Actively trusting God means knowing your weaknesses while embracing God’s strength – (humility instead of pride)

How do I take up the shield of faith?

1. Obedience
 - a. I am going to obey you God regardless of what comes!
 - b. Faith and obedience cannot be separated
2. Believe in who God says He is and who He says you are in Him
3. Choose what to think, dwell on, believe, embrace, react...

Gideon

- Judges 6; the 5th judge of Israel
- Younger son of a man who worshipped Baal
- He was strong in the Lord but with a weakness of spirit (Thomas)
- Told he would fight and defeat the Midianites
 - An army consisting of approx. 150-200,000 men
 - Tested not only the angel but God
- Started with 32,000 men
- Down to 10,000 (scared)
- Finally to 300 (drinking water)
- God went before Him and gave them a victory in a battle they did not even had to fight
- Gave Israel 40 years of peace

Prayer for increased faith

- Dealing with the arrows of temptation
- Standing strong in the battle
- Activate my faith