

Full Armor of God Week 5: Shield of Faith Sunday March 1st, 2020

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT, pg. 980) 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.

Ephesians 6:13-18 (NLT, pg. 980-981)

Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:16 (NLT) In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

This shield is supposed to protect my entire body and designed for a specific _____; to extinguish flaming arrows.

Faith is our _____ line of defense against the enemy.

O.T. faith = believing in God and being _____ to God's law.

N.T. faith = believing in and trusting Jesus. Relational in nature and focuses on _____ more than obedience.

Romans 3:21-22 (NLT, pg. 937) But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT, pg. 979) Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT, pg. 1016) Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Flaming arrows is a metaphor for _____.

If it comes from the enemy it is not true and is meant to _____.

Proverbs 26:18-21 (NLT, pg. 545) Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then

says, "I was only joking." Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops. A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood.

Words are _____.

James 3:5-6 (NLT, pg. 1020) In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

Acts 2:3-4 (NLT, pg. 906) Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

My faith must be in _____ for the shield to protect me.

Psalms 18:30 (NLT, pg. 459) God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Psalms 28:7 (NLT, pg. 464) The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Ephesians 4:5-6 (NLT, pg. 979) There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

Faith will grow _____ the further I go in my journey.

Hebrews 12:1-2a (NLT, pg. 1017) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

Final Thought: A strong faith will stop and extinguish deceptions and lies, protecting the whole body. What flaming arrows need _____ in your journey?

Full Armor of God week 5 Discussion Questions

Have you ever put your faith in something other than God? (other people, money, an organization, the church, a religion, etc.) How did you realize that your faith was misplaced? Explain. Read Hebrews 11:1-2. This provides a pretty abstract definition of faith. How would you explain faith to someone who is new to the ways of Jesus?

One of the great misconceptions in our world (or lies of the enemy) is that you earn your salvation through good works. The opposite position also exists; that if I have faith good works have no role in my journey. Yet, they are connected in the description of the armor; faith is my first line of defense, righteousness is my last line of defense. In your observation and/or experience, how are faith and righteousness connected? Read Ephesians 2:8-10. How do these verses help set up the description of the armor later in the letter?

Read James 2:14-26. James gives a strong case that grace and good works are not opposites but actually compliment one another. What stands out to you from this passage? How have you seen this concept be true in your faith journey? Faith goes far beyond salvation, to an ongoing and growing part of your growth in Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-9, 13:13, Galatians 5:22-23, James 5:13-16. According to these passages, how does faith benefit not only the growing Christian but also the entire church?

“A strong faith will stop and extinguish deceptions and lies.” Has this statement been true in your life? Why or why not? Read Proverbs 26:18-28. What do these verses teach us about the flaming arrows of the enemy? Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What flaming arrows need to be extinguished in your life? What weight is slowing down your faith journey?