

**Stand Firm in Warfare:
The Call to Battle – The Shield of Faith!
Eph 6:14-20 (Part 5)**

I. Introduction- Today – The Shield of Faith

A. When you think about the shields that Roman armies used, you realize how much warfare has changed in WEAPONS but NOT in PRINCIPLE!

B. We've learned about the breastplate of righteous – BODY ARMOR just like we have today!

1. They stopped swords and daggers with leather and metal
2. We stop bullets with Kevlar and high tech fabrics!

C. But now we come to Shields!

D. Do we use shields today? A: Yes and No

1. First – we no longer stand in rows in a field and fight! Why? Weapons have gotten too accurate!
2. So, Second we “SHIELD” ourselves in battle with natural shields like terrain and man-made fortifications!
3. And – our Weapon systems are heavily plated with armor – while we may still wear our body armor too!

E. But – we are constantly developing MISSILE SHIELD defense systems

1. Everyone remembers STAR WARS of the 1980s.
2. And – Patriot missiles of the Gulf War in 1990 that shot down SCUD missiles with some success
3. While I was in Seminary we would see missile launches from Vandenberg Air Force base as they would test anti-missile missiles and see if they could hit an incoming test missile.
4. In addition to missiles we have huge high-speed

machine guns on ships that literally create a wall of bullets to rip apart incoming missiles – A SHIELD of BULLETS!

F. Why do we still work on Shields with all the ARMOR technology we have?

1. First – some weapons are big enough that our armor is not enough – nuclear weapons defeat our best tanks!
 - a) But – that’s not what we have to talk about today
2. Second – weapons today have multiple warheads – one missile becomes 10 warheads spreading out over a target – HARD TO DEFEND
3. One missile becomes a cluster bomb – literally hundreds of small bombs SPRAYING an AREA with a BLANKET of death
4. SO – you need to DEFEAT those WEAPONS BEFORE they SPRAY and SPREAD!

G. That is what we will see today – a shield to stop FLAMING ARROWS – arrows that HIT and SPRAY/SPREAD FIRE!

H. ...MISSILE-DEFENSE SHIELDS - STAR WARS / SCUD Stoppers / ARMOR

II. Review: STAND FIRM in WARFARE

A. The CALL to PREPARE (6:10-13)

B. The Call to Battle / Fight (6:14-20)

1. The Mandate

14 Stand firm therefore,

- a) = COMMAND -DO it ONE TIME -STAY THERE!
- b) = DEFENSIVE POSITION NOT OFFENSIVE! – HOLD YOUR GROUND

c) = COMMAND DRIVES SECTION to v.20! – ALL that follows are DETAILS of HOW to do this

2. The Method (How we stand firm)

a) The Girdle of Truth

14...HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,

- (1) METAPHOR: Belt for tunic
- (2) MEANING: preparedness
- (3) Key – What do you gird with? A: CONTENT of Truth = Word of God

b) The Breastplate of Righteousness

and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

- (1) METAPHOR = BODY ARMOR! – DEFENSIVE armor!
- (2) MEANING = PROTECT MIND and EMOTIONS with RIGHTEOUS LIVING
 - (a) You have NO defense against Satan if SIN DOMINATES your LIFE!
 - (b) BUT – Satan CANNOT HURT your VITAL organs – MIND and EMOTIONS WHEN you are OBEYING GOD!
- (3) KEY: the BREASTPLATE is ON ONLY when WE are LIVING a RIGHTEOUS LIFE!
- (4) BREASTPLATE OFF = worldly living

c) Feet shod with Gospel of Peace

15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

- (1) METAPHOR: Roman Soldier's Sandals
 - (a) Bottom had spikes (hobnails)
 - (b) = DIGGING IN STANDING FIRM SANDALS
- (2) MEANING: to have your feet made ready / equipped with the Gospel of Peace?
 - (a) YOU STAND FIRM KNOWING that GOD is

NOW ON YOUR SIDE!

- (b) Through SALVATION—accepting the Gospel
 - (c) You are AT PEACE with GOD –
 - (i) He’s on your side
 - (ii) He’s fighting for you
 - (d) SO, you CONFIDENTLY STAND FIRM and Don’t GIVE GROUND to SATAN!
- (3) It’s that SIMPLE – ONCE
- (a) You HAVE PEACE with GOD
 - (b) You UNDERSTAND and CONTEMPLATE what that REALLY MEANS!

III. NEW: The Shield of Faith

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.

A. 16 in addition to all

1. We have a change in the flow!
 - a) V.14 Stand firm therefore
 - b) V.14...having girded your loins
 - c) V.14 ...having put on the breastplate
 - d) V.15 ...having shod your feet
 - e) Remember? Participles (having) that detail out HOW we are to STAND FIRM
 - f) Now, Paul breaks the pattern – why?
2. “in addition to all” = best translation
 - a) NKJ = “Above all” – implies more important – not true
 - b) = “In addition to what I just told you...”
 - c) Paul is introducing the LAST 3 PIECES of ARMOR
 - d) THEN Paul uses a different verb “take” vs. “having”...

B. taking up

1. "taking up" = IMMEDIATE READINESS
 - a) Previous "having" = PERMANENCE
 - b) Think about it
 - (1) Belt = part of clothing – put on once and stays there
 - (2) Breastplate = put on once and stays there
 - (3) Sandals = put on once and stays there
 - (4) All three are like the football player getting dressed in the locker room
 - (5) = Put on core/fixed uniform
 - c) But Now – look at last three pieces
 - (1) Shield – temporary armor – don't hold it in position ALL the time
 - (a) = put in place at TIME of BATTLE
 - (2) Eph 6:17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION,
 - (a) Like football player's helmet – don't put on while marching / waiting for battle – too hot and heavy!
 - (3) and [take implied] the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
 - (a) Again – Carry Sword and don't "take up" into battle position until time to fight
2. Put it all together

Eph 6:16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith ...
17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and [take] the sword of the Spirit, ...

 - a) Paul – "IN ADDITION TO the permanent armor (having put on...) PUT ON the temporary battle armor (TAKE UP)
 - b) So - Paul switches us to SECOND part of the ARMOR!
3. And – nothing special about the meaning of "taking up" = pretty literal stuff!

a) Saw it already back in preparation section in V.13
[Eph 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God,...](#)

4. Important part – “[taking up](#)” =

- a) COMMAND – you must do it
- b) Is a SUBSET of STANDING FIRM = PART of STANDING FIRM
- c) Done ONE TIME and stays there for BATTLE
- d) Finally – YOU DO THE ACTION – FULLY!
 - (1) Verb is FULLY ACTIVE – You DO ALL the ACTION with the shield

C. [the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.](#)

1. METAPHOR: Soldiers Battle Shield!

- a) But – a couple of choices
- b) Small Shield – Like having an over-sized Frisbee shield on your forearm
 - (1) Used in hand-to-hand, close combat
 - (2) Deflects daggers and short swords of enemy
 - (3) Easy to move quickly to block a blow
 - (4) Fitted to forearm with two leather straps you slide arm through
 - (5) NOT the shield we’re talking about here!
- c) = Large Shield – Like holding a DOOR in FRONT of YOU
 - (1) Ever see the armies line up across from each other on the battlefield?
 - (2) What kind of shield does the front line have?
 - (3) LARGE DOOR-LIKE SHIELD
 - (a) Sit on the ground
 - (b) About 5’ high / Up to 3’ wide
 - (c) Wood covered with Leather or metal treated with PITCH

- (4) This shield could stop heaviest enemy weapons
- (5) How do we know it is this shield? A: Root word for this shield is the Greek word for DOOR! 😊
- d) What does Paul say that THIS SHIELD IS FOR? = with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- e) “extinguish all the flaming arrows”
- (1) = arrows with cloth and oil on the tip
 - (2) Light and shoot!
 - (3) Oil splatters on impact - catches clothing on fire
 - (4) Shield coated in heavy pitch SO WOOD WOULDN'T BURN from just a small arrow
 - (5) Shield wide enough so that the oil spray wouldn't get through!
 - (6) “extinguish” (quench in NKJ) = common word for putting out a fire!
 - (7) = WHEN you HAVE shield UP you will BE ABLE TO PUT OUT EVERY flaming arrow!
- f) of the evil one. = SATAN
- (1) Paul reminds us that our enemy in this battle is indeed SATAN! – a personal being!
- g) NOTE: Many commentators CLAIM the shield = DOUBLE PROTECTION
- (1) = merely 2nd level of defense in addition to breastplate - IS that true?
 - (2) Would you want to have your breastplate stop a flaming arrow? NO!
 - (a) NOT covered in pitch- may burn
 - (b) NOT ABLE to STOP the SPLATTERING of the fire!
 - (i) Your face, arms, legs ALL EXPOSED without the SHIELD!

(3)ATTACKS to the Body are SPECIFIC – sword aimed at heart, etc.

(4)PRIMARY purpose of the FLAMING ARROW – is the SPLATTERING FIRE – Satan wants to you to get BURNED!

(5)Remember this when work out the meaning!

2. MEANING

a) Remember – Armor is used throughout Scripture

b) Metaphors of this section are NOT NEW to those knowing OT

c) OT: Shields

Ge 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.”

Ps 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Ps 18:30 As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

Ps 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.

(1)OT “shield” = God’s protection!

(2)Here in Ephesians = PROTECTION too!

(3)Protection OF FAITH (will talk about in a minute)

d) Arrows – Lots of meaning in OT

(1)Arrows = common offensive weapon

(2)Many Scriptural uses!

(a)Simple – talk about arrows in battle

(b)God’s arrows – kill the enemy / convict men of sin / chasten men and make them

weak (Your arrows have sunk deep into me)

(c) Enemy's arrows – attacks on OT saints...(just like here)

D. What does PAUL want us to KNOW in EPHESIANS?

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.

1. You've got the belt on – you know the WORD of GOD and your studies have PREPARED YOU WELL
2. You've got the shield of righteousness on – You live a righteous, holy life and the normal flow of your life is godly!
3. You've got your sandals on – You know God is on your side and have a confidence to stand firm!
4. So – all is well with life – or so you think!
 - a) No one – RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT is thrusting a sword at you, right?
 - b) BUT – do you see all those arrows coming at you from afar? Landing all around you?
 - c) They may not even hit you directly – but they spatter you with a little fire

E. First – what are these FLAMING ARROWS?

1. Think about Flaming Arrows coming at you
 - a) They are from Satan – the Father of lies, with no truth in him
 - b) Therefore –
 - (1) Satan's arrows are LIES
 - (2) Are Temptations to Sin
 - (3) Are Doubts to distrust God
 - c) The direct hand-to-hand combat HAS NOT YET STARTED

(1) Yet – you are **CONSTANTLY BE BOMBARDED**
by **FLAMING ARROWS!**

d) Satan is still going to attack you directly and you're going to need to use the Sword of the Spirit – the Word of God in hand-to-hand combat!

2. Flaming Arrows represent all the temptations that constantly bombard us
3. What is Satan's **PRIMARY MEANS** of sending flaming arrows? **THE WORLD!**

[1 Jn 2:15](#) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16](#) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. [17](#) The world is passing away, and *a/so* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

a) Lust of the flesh: Satan is **NOT** your flesh, but he can **STIR UP YOUR FLESH!**

(1) Remember

[Ga 5:17](#) For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

[1 Pe 2:11](#) Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

(2) Satan knows this and gives **FUEL** to your **FLESH!**

b) Lust of the eyes: Anything in the world ever **APPEALED** to your **EYES** that God didn't want you to have?

(1) Do you ever think Satan is behind this?

c) Boastful pride of life: Every Been proud of what you have, what you've achieved, where you are in life?

[1 Co 10:12](#) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

4. Think about it – When the archer sends his flaming arrow – he’s just aiming in the general direction of the other army – hoping to hit someone!
5. Satan works through the world
 - a) It’s advertising
 - b) It’s entertainment
 - c) It’s “good things” that we want
 - d) False doctrine – see on TV, hear on Radio, read in books
 - e) He doesn’t have to know who his arrows are going to hit!
 - f) You’re flesh will take care of that!
6. These are his Schemes of v.11

[Eph 6:11](#) Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

7. What do these flaming arrows do? TEST our FAITH
 - a) Try to get us to DOUBT GOD
 - b) To Second GUESS GOD
 - c) To trust ourselves
 - d) To turn DESIRES into LUSTS – so that we disobey God to get them... And on and on!

F. SO – how does the SHIELD of FAITH work?

1. AT THE MOMENT OF BATTLE
 - a) When the arrows are coming in
 - b) Do you trust GOD?
 - c) Whom do you have faith in?
 - d) Who do you LISTEN to and FOLLOW?
 - e) Are you protected head-to-toe WITH FAITH / TRUST in GOD?

2. “taking up the shield of faith” = APPLYING QUICKLY what we KNOW is TRUE from GOD to repel EVERYTHING Satan throws at us
3. At the moment of TEMPTATION
 - a) You Know the TRUTH and YOU BELIEVE the TRUTH and you ACT on the TRUTH
 - b) You REACT GOD’S way in a CHRIST-LIKE, BIBLICAL MANNER
 - c) You TURN off the TV
 - d) You CLOSE Internet BROWSER
 - e) You don’t DWELL on the Advertisement for something you can’t afford
 - f) You don’t look at the attractive person coming toward you / and don’t let your mind think immoral thoughts
4. Remember – “take up” is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
 - a) When the Shield is down
 - b) The arrows come through – “It’s OK, I can look at her, it won’t bother me...”
 - (1)What happens? The fire starts and grows...
 - (2) I can stop and make conversation
 - (3)I can get to know her
 - (4)I can go to lunch with her
 - (5)... I won’t be attracted...

G. Listen to Scripture Exhort us!

Pr 30:5 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Hab 2:4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

Ro 1:17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Ga 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

1 Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1 Jn 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

2 Co 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm.

1 Pe 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

Ro 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

H. Adam and Eve were in the Garden:

Ge 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ ” 4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the

woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

1. There's a perfect example of
 - a) Attack by Satan
 - b) SHIELD'S DOWN
 - c) NOT HAVING FAITH In GOD
2. Who did Adam and Eve have FAITH in? God or Satan? A: Satan

I. But – Scripture is ALSO FULL of examples of FAITH

1. What do we call those who have gone before us and lived by faith?
 - a) Who faced FAR GREATER tests of faith than us?
 - b) A: the HEROES of the FAITH
 - c) What does God have to say about them?

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. 4 By faith Abel ... (BY FAITH for the next 28 verses!) 32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of* righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains

and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (*men* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

- d) What a testimony of HOW GOD USES THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH – WHO HAD THE SHIELD UP!
 e) What is our response to be to those heroes of the faith?

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us (ALL THOSE PEOPLE from CHAPTER 11), let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us (=DOUBT), and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith (BINGO – LIVE BY FAITH LEARNING FROM JESUS)**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **For consider Him (i.e. consider HIS FAITH) who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (IN BEING FAITHFUL!)**.

IV. CONCLUSION: LIVE BY FAITH

A. REALIZE that there are ARROWS coming at you!

B. MAKE EVERY DECISION ONE of FAITH

1. FIX YOUR EYES on JESUS – the AUTHOR and PERFECTOR OF FAITH!
2. FAITH FOCUSES and TRUSTS HIM!