

The Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:16

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“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”

- **Armor and weapons that come into direct contact with the enemy.**
- **“Take up” – faith is already at hand for the believer**
- **Faith empowers the believer against the enemy**

The Roman Shield

- 1.2 meters x .8 meters
- Wood covered with leather
- It would stop and put out flaming missiles
- Temptation as flaming missile – it burns and if not extinguished it spreads



The Christian's Armor

Hidden: Integrity

- Commitment to Truth
- Commitment to Righteousness
- Commitment to Gospel

Unhidden: Engaging in Battle

- Walking by Faith
- Salvation by Grace – Personal Testimony
- Word of God

The Christian's Armor

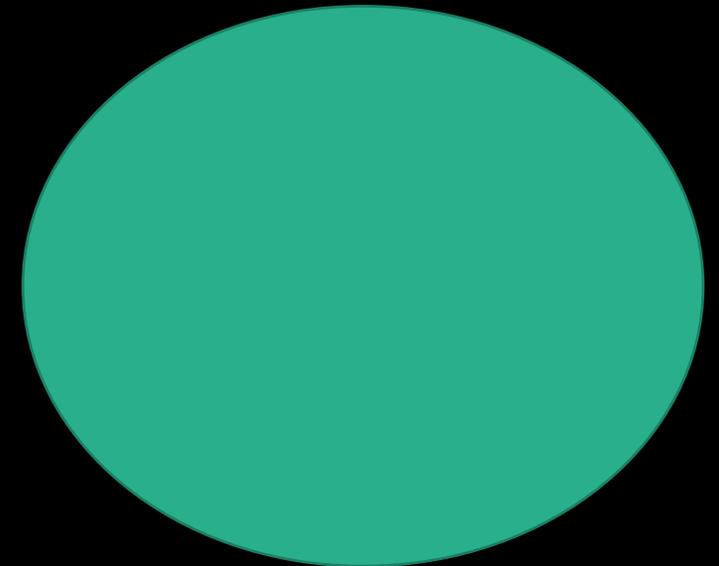
Hidden: Integrity

- Truth
- Righteousness
- The Gospel



Unhidden: Engaging in Battle

- Faith
- Salvation
- Word of God

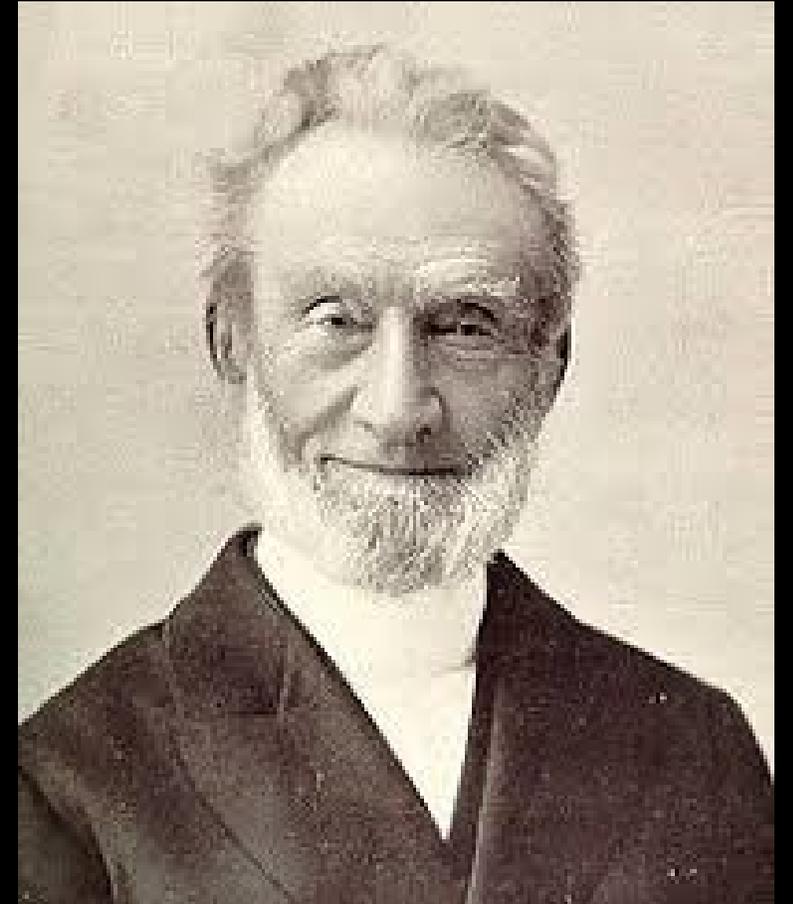


1. When we take up the Shield of Faith, God commends us as a good soldier

- **“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation” (Heb. 11:1-2).**
- **Faith must stand upon a revelation, promise, or command of God.**

George Müller: 1805-1898

- Born Halberstadt, Saxony-Anhalt
- Converted 20 years of age
- 1829 moved to England to evangelize Jewish communities.
- Pastored Bethesda Chapel in Bristol
- Cared for over 10,000 orphans in his lifetime
- Lived a life of prayer and faith



George Müller said:

"Impressions have neither one thing nor the other to do with faith. Faith has to do with the Word of God. It is not impressions, strong or weak, which will make the difference. We have to do with the Written Word and not ourselves or our impressions...Many people are willing to believe regarding those things that seem probable to them. Faith has nothing to do with probabilities. The province of faith begins where probabilities cease and sight and sense fail. Appearances are not to be taken into account. The question is—whether God has spoken it in His Word."

2. By faith we see that God is this world's rightful owner and Lord

- “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible” (Heb 11:3).**
- In temptation Satan wants us to think of God as an intruder into our personal lives.**
- In reality Satan and the fallen world system are the intruders.**

Pilgrim's Progress: Christian's battle with Apollyon

- **Satan does not lose his subjects willingly.**
- **He makes sin look promising and rewarding.**
- **He points out the failure and hypocrisy of others.**
- **He points out the trials and hardships of following Christ.**
- **He points out the Christian's own failings.**
- **He questions our motives of following Christ.**

Christian's Answers to Apollyon

“And besides all this, oh you destroying Apollyon, to be perfectly truthful, I like his employment, his wages, his servants, his government, his company and country infinitely more than yours. Therefore, stop trying to change my mind and leave me alone; I am the Lord's servant and I am determined to follow him.”

Christian's Answers to Apollyon

- **Sin rewarding? Sin is only rewarding for a season, then it is miserable, but righteousness is eternally rewarding. “(Moses) chose to be mistreated with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin” (Heb. 10:25).**
- **Christian's hypocrites? Believers have failed because of Satan's temptations, but God will still sustain them to the end. “Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand” (Rom 14:4).**

Christian's Answers to Apollyon

- **Trials for doing right? God promises reward for doing right: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).**
- **Our failures? God is merciful, and if we confess He cleanses us. “If we confess our sins God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).**
- **Impure motives? God commands us to obey Him: “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt 10:28).**

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

φανερῶσει τὰς βουλὰς τῶν καρδιῶν – “counsels,” “thoughts,” “motives,” “purposes”

3. By Faith we are lifted to a new level of life, securing a wonderful future

One of Satan's flaming darts is that there is no real future for those who follow Christ.

3. By Faith we are lifted to a new level of life, securing a wonderful future

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb 11:4-6).