

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-30-14 PM NOTES  
"THE CHRISTIAN'S WARFARE" (PART 3)  
EPHESIANS 6:16-17a  
#28 in Series, "The Christian's Wealth, Walk, and Warfare"

"There are equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about [the devil and demons]. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."  
—C. S. Lewis

**Hebrews 2:14 (NASB)** "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."

**Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)** "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

**Romans 8:37 (NKJV)** "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

*Hupernikeo*—*huper* means over and above; more than enough; *nikeo* is the word we get "Nike" from and it means to conquer.

Review:

- I. The Belt of Truth (v. 14a)
- II. The Breastplate of Righteousness (v. 14b)
- III. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace (v. 15)

IV. The Shield of Faith (v. 16)

A. The Shield's Description

B. The Shield's Application

**Acts 5:1-3 (NKJV)** "<sup>1</sup>But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. <sup>2</sup>And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup>But Peter said, 'Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart** to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?'"

**Mark 8:31-33 (NKJV)** "<sup>31</sup>And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke this word openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup>But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, '**Get behind Me, Satan!** For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'"

"There is a God. He has spoken in His Word. He means all He has said and will do all He has promised."

—Hudson Taylor's Philosophy of Life

## The Four Categories of Faith:

Faith That Receives

Faith That Rests

Faith That Reckons

Faith That Risks

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV)** “<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

## V. The Helmet of Salvation (v. 16a)

### A. The Helmet’s Description

### B. The Helmet’s Application

#### 1. Christians Have Been Saved From the Penalty of Sin

**Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)** “For by grace **you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God.”

#### 2. Christians Are Being Saved From the Power of Sin

**Romans 7:23 (NKJV)** “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”

**Romans 6:11 (NKJV)** “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

#### 3. We Will be Saved From the Presence of Sin

**Romans 13:11b (ESV)** “For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NKJV)** “But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”

**Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)** “For our citizenship is in heaven...”

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I like what C. S. Lewis had to say about the devil and demons. “There are equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about [the devil and demons]. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” [Quoted in John MacArthur, *How to Meet the Enemy*, page 7]. Satan is real and demonic spirits are real. We are engaged in a real war with them, but it is a different kind of war. Our enemies’ ultimate defeat and doom has already been procured by our Lord Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 2:14 (NASB)** “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He [Jesus] Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”. **Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)** tells us the already determined end of the devil. “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” While the ultimate outcome of this battle is determined – absolutely determined – how the individual skirmishes and daily battles turn out depends on whether we are battling in the way that is described in Ephesians 6:10-18. Make no mistake. In every major battle and minor skirmish the truth of **Romans 8:37 (NKJV)** stands: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” There is one Greek word that is translated “more than conquerors”. It is the compound word, *hupernikeo*. The prefix *huper* means over and above, more than enough, no doubt about it. The word *nikeo* is the word we get “Nike” from and it means “conqueror”. We who are in Christ are “over and above conquerors”. But if we do not stand against the enemy and persist in the battle armed with the full armor of God described in these verses, we may lose the specific battle we are in.

In the last message, we looked at three pieces of the armor: I. The Belt of Truth (V14a), II. The Breastplate of Righteousness (V14b) and III. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace (V15). In this message we will look at two other pieces of our armor.

#### IV. The Shield of Faith (V16)

##### A. The Shield’s Description

In the first century, a Roman soldier could have used one of at least two kinds of shields. One shield was circular about 2 feet in diameter. It was strapped to the arm and it was very light weight. It was used to block the enemies’ blows with his weapon in hand to hand combat. The second type of shield (the one described in our text) was a large shield about 2 ½ feet wide and 4 ½ feet high. This kind of shield was designed to protect the soldier’s entire body. It was also used by the soldiers in the advance against the enemy to interlock with the other soldier’s shields to form a wall – sometimes a mile wide – as the army advanced on the enemy. The large shields were usually made of wood and were covered with metal or thick leather that had been thoroughly soaked with water or some other non-combustible liquid. Here is why the shields were covered with metal or leather. One of the common tactics of the enemy was to wrap pieces of cloth around the arrow head and then dip it in pitch and set it on fire before shooting it at the advancing Roman soldiers. When these fiery arrows would hit the shields, the fiery pieces of cloth would be scattered and often set the soldiers clothes on fire as well as burning up the wooden shield. When the arrows hit the water-soaked leather covering on the shield, the fire would be extinguished.

##### B. The Shield’s Application

Before we see the shield’s application, let’s make sure that we understand what the flaming arrows (“darts” is not a good translation) illustrate. Notice in verse 16 that they are the fiery arrows of the wicked one. The wicked one is obviously Satan and would by implication include his demons. Though the text doesn’t spell it out, it is not hard to figure out. They are doubtlessly thoughts of temptation, thoughts of doubt, and thoughts of accusation, imaginations, and false arguments that he implants into our mind. The

Bible is crystal clear that our enemy can implant thoughts into our mind and when he does he desires to make us think that the thoughts came from us and even in some cases from God. Let me just give you two examples – though there are more. We read in **Acts 5:1-3 (NKJV)** “<sup>1</sup> But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. <sup>2</sup> And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie** to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself?’” Another example of how Satan can implant thoughts into our mind is when Peter began to rebuke Jesus for speaking about the cross. **Mark 8:31-33 (NKJV)** “<sup>31</sup> And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup> But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter [He went directly to the one ultimately responsible for Peter’s thought and logic], saying, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’”

While Satan spoke directly with Eve, he speaks to us through our mind disguising himself as our own thoughts. What did he communicate to Eve? He communicated that God could not be trusted and that God was holding out on Adam and Eve. He is communicating the same things today! He stays busy firing the arrows of doubt, temptation and accusation (he is called “the accuser of the brethren” in Revelation 12:10). He will tell you that you are incompetent to do what you are attempting for God’s glory; he will tell you that you’re never going to change; he’s going to tell you that God is holding out on you; he’s going to tell you that the Bible doesn’t mean what it seems like it means on the surface about adultery, homosexuality, divorce, and a host of other topics; he will tell you that Christ hasn’t truly forgiven you and washed away your sins; he will tell you that those old habit patterns are just too strong and the indwelling Holy Spirit can’t really enable you to overcome. I could go on and on, but remember that when he speaks, it sounds just like you.

Let me give an example of these fiery arrows that is so clear. When you examine suicide notes and interview people who have seriously tried to take their own life and survived, you see a pattern emerging. The similarity is too consistent to be unconnected. The path they go down is something like this: “It is never going to get any better; there is no hope; I will never change; whatever waits after death could not be any worse than the pain I’m experiencing now; really, everyone would be better off if I was no longer alive”. There are certainly varieties of that, but there are too many suicides that take that pattern to just be coincidence.

What do we do about these fiery arrows, these thoughts that we are bombarded with by our fiendish enemy? We see in verse 16 that we are to **Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)** take up “the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery [arrows] of the wicked one.” What kind of faith is this verse talking about? I’m convinced that we make faith as it is used in this verse way too complicated. “Faith” as it is used here is not the body of Christian beliefs but simple trust in God and His promises. Faith is simply confessing that what God says is true and then ordering our behavior around the fact that God can be trusted. The emphasis in Scripture is not on the amount of your faith; it is on the object of your faith. When God’s revealed Word is the object of your faith, even a small faith that just takes a deep breath and steps out in obedience trusting God’s promises is sufficient. I am speaking of a way of life like that of the pioneer missionary to inland China, Hudson Taylor. Here is how he summarized his approach to life, to challenges, to needs, to the devil’s temptations and lies. He said, “There is a God. He has spoken in His Word. He means all He has said and will do all He has promised.” With that truth as his foundation, Taylor would just refuse to worry and step out in obedience to God. Perhaps you are thinking, “Pastor, I think you are oversimplifying something that’s more complex”. My response would be, “No, you are overcomplicating something that is simple.”

Someone has divided this kind of faith up into four different categories. First, there is **faith that receives**. When God promises to give something in response to our faith, we reach out in faith claiming it and confessing that we have it. The primary examples are salvation and the filling of the Holy Spirit. **John 1:12 (NKJV)** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,

to those who believe in His name”. Salvation is when I have turned from every hope, every way of salvation and in repentance I turn to Christ and receive by faith what He did on my behalf on Calvary’s cross. Daily I come in total surrender to Him and ask Him believing Him to fill me with His Spirit to enable me to obey and glorify Him in every area of life. Second, there is **faith that rests**. This is the response of faith to the promises of God to provide, to care for, to meet some need. Instead of worrying, we rest in Him, abide in Him knowing that His timing is perfect and He will do what He says. Third, there is **faith that reckons**. To reckon is to consider something as so because God says it is so. We practice reckoning faith when it comes to our identity in Christ – we are a new creation set free from the slavery to sin. We are redeemed, forgiven, loved, accepted and dead to the power of sin within us that seeks to control us. Fourth, there is **faith that risks**. This is faith to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit that take us way outside our comfort zone. It would be faith to give when we really don’t seem to be able to afford it; faith to go to areas outside our comfort zone to make disciples – the inner city, international trips to unreached people groups; faith to go to our neighbor to share the Gospel and risk rejection or ridicule.

Allow me to take another passage and give you more detail about this shield of faith. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV)** “<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”. In these verses are details about how the battle actually works. There must be a foundation of the word in your life so that you recognize the enemy’s arrows. If you don’t know the Word of God, you are a sitting duck for the Devil’s lies. Look at these verses in 2 Corinthians. In this battle to stand and not be moved, the weapons we employ are not fleshly, man empowered, carnal “mind control techniques”. Our weapons are mighty in God – the weapons of faith in God’s internalized word. Notice the attack that comes. The devil begins firing his arrows, his lies, his arguments”. That word “arguments” is translated “speculations” in the NASB. It is his “Has God said...” “Surely God has not said”. This is the same pattern he used with Eve. Then there are the high sounding intellectual arguments that contradict God’s Word. The ESV says “every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God”. We are to take these thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. In other words, we choose to lift up the shield of faith and simply believe God.

Oh, my dear people, the way that Satan dealt with Eve is the same way he works today. He seeks to pull us into doubting God’s goodness, doubting the truth of God’s Word, doubting our salvation doubting God’s guidance, doubting God’s application of His Word to a specific area of your life, and doubting your competency in Christ to carry out what He has given you to do. Lift up the shield of faith – receiving faith, resting faith, reckoning faith, and risking faith, and take every fiery arrow thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Confess in faith your identity in Christ, your ability to do all things through Christ who strengthens you. The fiery arrows say that there is no hope but the shield of faith quenches that fire with the confession and belief that our hope is in the promises of God and God keeps His Word.

## V. The Helmet of Salvation (V16a)

The Roman soldier would never even consider entering a battle without his helmet.

### A. The Helmet’s Description

Some of the helmets in the first century were of leather, but the most common were of molded or beaten metal. They usually had cheek pieces to protect the face as well as the head.

### B. The Helmet’s Application

The helmet is not illustrating getting saved. It is only the saved that can put on the armor. What is “salvation” referring to? To understand what the helmet is referring to, we have to understand that there are 3 parts or aspects of salvation. This is very basic, but we need to be familiar with it.

#### 1. Christians Have Been Saved from the Penalty of Sin

This is the past aspect of salvation. **Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)** “For by grace you **have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God”. Salvation from sin is not a process; it takes place at a point in time. The blood of Christ has saved you from all of your sins.

#### 2. Christians Are Being Saved from the Power of Sin

In the New Testament, sin is not only acts of breaking God's law; it is also a power or law that dwells in our members. **Romans 7:23 (NKJV)** "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." This law or power of sin is Satan's inroad into our lives to tempt and deceive us. At salvation, the old us in Adam that this power of sin enslaved was crucified with Christ and we are no longer slaves to the power of sin. When we count by faith that this power of sin is no longer our master, we walk in victory. **Romans 6:11 (NKJV)** "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." This continuing deliverance from sin's power in our members is also called sanctification.

### 3. Christians Will Be Saved from the Presence of Sin

**Romans 13:11b (ESV)** "For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." This aspect of salvation is often called glorification. We will leave these bodies behind with that power of sin and the old programming called the "flesh" and we will be brought into the presence of the Lord where there is no more battle with sin. It is this third aspect of salvation that the helmet of salvation illustrated. We see a confirmation of that view in **1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NKJV)** "putting on ... *as* a helmet the hope of salvation." "Hope" speaks of something that God has promised but it's complete fulfillment is in the future. Let's focus for a moment on this helmet, which is the hope of a final and complete salvation.

Here is why this piece of the armor is so vital. It is so easy to become weary in the battle here. The battle never stops. The Dohnavur Fellowship (started by missionary Amy Carmichael) had as its slogan, "Drawn swords to the gate of heaven". In other words, there will be constant, continuing battle until we enter heaven. In the weariness of battle here, our armor is to set our eyes on heaven and long for the rest that is there, but then be reminded that until we get there the battle will continue to rage.

The helmet of salvation is to protect us from discouragement and hopelessness. The devil has succeeded in accomplishing his work when we start seeing this world as our hope, our expectation. We will put down the helmet and decide to find our expectations and desires for rest met here. When we do that, we have played right into the devil's hands. This earthly life is war. While there is joy in Christ here and times of refreshment here, this earthly life is primarily a battle. Heaven is home; heaven is the place where the battle ceases. Without the helmet of salvation, we get discouraged or even worse we drop out of the battle and decide to make this earth our home. You are a citizen of another land. **Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)** "For our citizenship is in heaven..." Put on your helmet and get back in the battle. You're not home yet!