

Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 35
“The Shield of Faith”
Ephesians 6:10-18

In order to stand amidst spiritual conflict, I must trust in God’s every declaration as true.

1. Review: the Whole Armor

- (1) **The Implements of Preparation, Readiness**
- fixed to the body prior to the conflict
 - make sure they’re on and you’re protected
 - the belt
 - the breastplate
 - the shoes or sandals
- (2) **The Implements of Action, Conquest**
- The soldier actively utilizes these pieces
 - “taking” or “take up”
 - the shield
 - the helmet
 - the sword

2. The Shield of Faith

(1) The Terms:

-1- **“Fiery Darts” or “Flaming Missiles”**

- arrows with tips dipped in flammable substance
- used not only to wound, but to cause fear and alarm
- common strategy: to send a preliminary barrage of such arrows

-2- **The Shield**

- a large shield – approx. 2 ½ by 4 ft., with which one could protect the whole body
- usefulness: not in hand-to-hand combat, but to protect against arrows

(2) Interpretation:

“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

-1- **“the fiery darts of the evil one”**

- sent by “the wicked one” – Satan or his hosts
- they come suddenly and often in a barrage
- purpose: to confuse or alarm – to paralyze one with fear and confusion

Examples:

((1)) **the thought that comes suddenly**, seemingly “out of nowhere”

- commonly accusing, condemning
- may be vile, filthy, utterly base, even blasphemous

((2)) **imaginings** – pictures in the mind which may stir up sins, desires, lusts

- the enemy suggests the conclusion that such originate wholly from me
- false guilt, condemnation

-2- **“the shield of faith”**

- **“the shield which is faith”**

- faith in its active, subjective sense
- faith’s object, its warrant is always the Word of God – the truth

- **“above all”**

- priority! - we are called to exercise an active trust in the Word of God
- active trust in God’s every word as true

- **“with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one”**

- exercising faith in the truth of God’s Word constitutes a perfect shield
- it is sufficient to quench every fiery dart

Further Application