

The Shield Of Faith

Ephesians 6:16

The massive shield of the Roman soldier rests on a small clip attached to the loin belt when it was not in use. The loin belt represents the Word of God. Attached to the loin belt is the shield, which represents our faith: So what this means is, your faith is attached to the Word of God.

- If you fail to give the Word of God a high place in your life then your faith will begin to dwindle because the presence or absence of faith is determined by the presence or absence of Gods Word. Faith and the Word are inseparable!! That's why Paul said, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing from the Word of God." Where there is no Word, there is no faith!
- Paul started his description of the Roman soldier's armor with the built of truth. Why did he do that? He could have started with the beautiful breastplate or the brass greaves or the ornate helmet. So why did he do this? Because the Word of God is central and foremost to everything else that we have in God.
- I know I am hammering away about the importance of the Bible in a believer's life but without it we can be convinced of nothing!! For example: Your ability to walk in the knowledge that you are righteous in Christ hinges entirely upon the weight you give the Word of God in your life!
- If the Word of God does not have an important place in your schedule, it will be impossible for you to grow in faith!

So What Does A Shield Of Faith Look Like?

- The word shield used in Eph. 6:16 is taken from the Greek word "thureos." It describes a door that was wide in width and long in length. It was shaped like a door. This shield completely covered the entire man.

- God is telling us that he has given us enough faith to make sure we are completely covered. Romans 12:3 says, “God has dealt to every man a measure of faith.” Don’t ever think that God has not given you enough faith. He has given you enough faith to make sure you are covered in your life.
- Another cool fact about the shield is, it has six layers of animal hide that has been tightly woven together. Because of the multiple layers of animal skin, it was long lasting and exceptionally strong.
- The shield of faith that God has given you is also strong, long lasting and durable faith.

• How Do We Take Care Of Our Shields?

- Faith that is ignored nearly always breaks and falls apart during a conflict with the enemy. The biggest mistake we make as believers is, thinking they count on our past experiences with God to carry us through. The problem with that is that we cannot rest on our past. We have to push forward!
- Each morning a soldier would take pour oil onto a rag and the soldier would rub it onto the leather shield to make it soft and pliable. If the soldier didn’t do this daily then his shield would become brittle and not give the protection that he needed when the enemy’s arrows hit his shield causing death to the unfortunate one behind the shield.
- If that soldier wanted to live a long life, it was very important for him to pick up that oil on a daily bases and apply it thoroughly to his shield. Play it safe and assume that your faith needs a daily application of the anointing oil on your life.
 - Another thing the soldier did was to soak his shield in water until it was completely saturated. The water soaked shield put out the fiery arrows coming from the enemy. So their shields had daily applications of both water and oil.

- We MUST make certain that we are allowing the Holy Spirit to freshly anoint our lives on a daily basis as we regularly saturate our faith with the water of the Word. Word saturated faith will always extinguish the devils attacks!!!!

- Does Your Shield Have Cracks?

- Faith that is ignored becomes hard, stiff, and brittle faith. It will crack in the heat of the battle. If you come at the enemy with a cracked and neglected shield you will be in a whole bunch of trouble!! The Devil will say, “Paul I know and Jesus I know but who are you?”
- If you need a fresh anointing on your faith and life today then don’t wait one more day without the anointing of the Holy Spirit on your life today!!
 - The word “anoint” was a medical term. When a patient came in to see the physician, the physician would rub oil onto his own hands and rub that oil into the patient’s sore muscles.
 - So technically, then, the word “anoint” has to do with the rubbing of oil onto someone else. So if a person overcomes the enemy, it is because God has his hand and anointing on his life.
 - Lastly, there might be some her this morning that has tried to act in faith in the past and were disappointed with the outcome. Maybe you believed God for your healing and it got worse. Maybe you are afraid to step out and believe God again.
 - Remember, the devil knows that the mind is the strategic control center of your life. If he can seize your mind, he can then begin to wage war against the other parts of your being.
 - Today if your shield is cracked and in need of a fresh anointing then make your way to the front and lets let the Lord wash over us today.