

Agape House of Worship Wednesday Bible Study

Study Series: Standing Strong In Spiritual Battles
Part 5: The Shield of Faith

Wednesday, February 26th, 2025
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***Ephesians 6:16** “Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” (NKJV)*

Introduction

Our faith is an important offensive and defensive weapon that will cause us to effectively stand strong in spiritual battles. The enemy is always on a mission to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom to devour (1 Peter 5:8). He goes about looking for those he can catch off guard, not lifting up their shield in defense. This study seeks to shed light some of the fiery darts the enemy can use, the role of our shield in extinguishing them, and how our faith in Christ gives us victory.

Fiery Darts

The “fiery darts” were not exactly arrows. They were more like very thin, hollow pieces of reed or bamboo. Into the hollow portion, flammable liquid was inserted sealed in with a wick that was set on fire. When the projectile hit, it would shatter, splash the liquid, and the burning wick would set it on fire.

What are the fiery darts the enemy can use in our lives?

The fiery darts are not primarily going to be attacks on your physical person, attacks of sickness or disease. The majority of the “fiery darts” will be attacks of doubts, temptation, lust, greed, disappointment, discouragement, jealousy. The attacks will be against your faith, the promise of God, your mind or your emotions.

The fiery darts of Roman warfare did not look all that lethal. If launched in daylight, you could hardly see the long thin projectiles coming. While looking innocent in flight, when they impacted and shattered, pain and death was released. This is similar to Satan’s tactics.

The arrows the enemy uses are specific, targeted, deadly and dangerous. Do not be ignorant of the devices of the enemy. We cannot stop Satan from throwing the darts, but we can keep them from starting a fire.

Shield

The Roman shield of the time was called a “scutum”. This type of shield was as large as a door measured about 2 feet by 4 feet and protected the whole body. Such a shield was not just defensive but could also be used to push opponents. When fighting as a group, a phalanx of soldiers could interlock with other shields to form a position so around themselves, called a *testudo* (“tortoise”). In this formation they were practically invulnerable to darts, arrows, rocks, and even spears.

When join our faith together, we stand strong against the enemy. Two is better than one. One can chase a thousand and two ten thousand. The Christian walk is not meant to be done in isolation.

To protect against these fiery darts, the Romans transitioned to the larger wooden shields covered in leather. They soaked their leather in water before going into battle so that when the fiery darts of the enemy came, the “soaked” leather would extinguish the fire.

The shield of faith is a fire extinguisher; it can put out the fires of hell. The Christian's shield effectively counteracts the danger of such diabolical missiles not merely by arresting or deflecting them, but by actually quenching the flames to prevent them from spreading.

Faith

Hebrews 11:1. Faith is trusting in God’s character and promises. Our faith is anchored in the truths of Scripture and the unchanging nature of God. It is through faith we believe that God will fulfill his promises.

Satan’s attacks can sometimes cause us to doubt God. Faith prompts us to believe God. Faith reminds us that, though fulfillment of God’s promise may not be readily visible to us, God is true to His Word.

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith." (1 John 5:4)

Biblical examples from the heroes of faith

1. Abraham.
 - a. What was the promise?
 - b. What fiery darts do you think the enemy threw his way?
 - c. How did he take up his shield of faith? Hebrews 11:8-12,17-19.
2. Noah. Hebrews 11:7. Genesis 6-7

How have you used faith to overcome a fiery dart in your life?

How do we strengthen our faith

1. The Word of God. Romans 10:7. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God
2. Community with faith filled believers. Iron sharpens iron. Proverbs 27:17. Faith is contagious and so is fear (Spies and the promised land)
3. Testimonies
4. Prayer. Ask God to help our unbelief. We can go to Him with our doubts and fears. Mark 9:24

What are some practical steps we can take this week to strengthen our faith in our daily life?

Conclusion

Our faith is an important weapon against the schemes and lies of the enemy. When doubts arise, when fear tries to creep in, we must lift up our faith as a shield and trust in the promises of our faithful God. We win by believing and trusting God. Despite having doubts and anxieties, and various struggles and trials, we can choose not to give into them and choose to believe in God’s Word that we have the victory. Thanks be unto God who always causes us to triumph in His Christ!