



**The  
Church is  
in a War**

- A Mission**
- An Enemy**
- Soldiers**
- A Battle**

# The Armor of God -Don't Fight Barehanded



3 Weeks Ago

**Ephesians  
6:10-18**



We need to take  
our stand  
against the  
Lion

**1 Peter 5:8**

Your enemy the  
devil prowls  
around like a  
roaring lion  
looking for  
someone to devour.



G.I.- Government issue  
equipment soldiers  
will need to engage the  
enemy

G.I. - God issued  
God gives us armor  
and weapons to  
stand against the  
devil



## Ephesians 6:11

11 Put on the full armor of God so  
that you can take your stand  
against the devil's schemes.



Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Shoes of Peace

Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation

Sword of the Spirit

# Ephesians 6:13-15

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

# **Ephesians 6:16**

**16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.**

# The Armor of God -The Belt of Truth



3 Weeks Ago

**Ephesians  
6:14**

## What does "truth" mean?

**Ephesians 6:14**

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...

Greek *aletheuo* - It is being genuine, without hypocrisy. A person's integrity.

Paul is saying that our belt is spiritual 'sincerity' rather than spiritual 'facts' or 'information'.

## Enemy's attack: Deceive

-Satan fools us into thinking we can control sin, that it's not dangerous, something to be played with.  
**TRUTH:** There are always consequences for our sin.



## Enemy's attack: Deceive

The first requirement for victory is to be supported and strengthened by a genuine desire to please the Lord and promote His glory.



## Honesty with God

# The Armor of God -The Breastplate of Righteousness

2 Weeks  
Ago

Ephesians  
6:14



# What does “righteousness” mean?

Ephesians 6:14

...with the breastplate of righteousness in place...

Greek *dikaiosune*-

- The condition acceptable to God
  - Right Standing before God
    - To be found innocent
- Justified – to be acquitted of the charges

## Satan’s Attack

□ How does righteousness serve as a breastplate against Satan’s attacks?

□ Satan’s attacks on our righteousness make us vulnerable to the lie that we are not good enough.

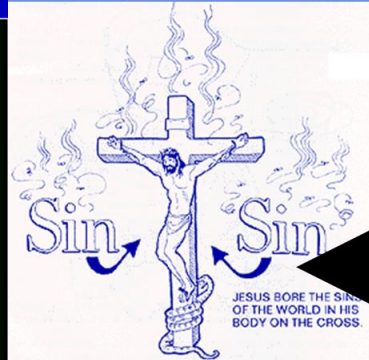
□ Satan’s attack on our righteousness is an attack on our eternal assurance.

□ It protects from two of Satan’s chief weapons: self-righteousness and despair.

# Righteousness = Right standing with God

God’s/Jesus’  
Righteousness

Added to You



Your sin

Your Life  
(account)

Enemy’s attack: Accuse  
The second requirement for victory is to cover and protect our hearts, applying what you know to be true.



Reliance on  
God

**Last Week**

# The Armor of God -Sandals of Readiness



**Ephesians  
6:15**



## What does “readiness” mean?

Ephesians 6:15

15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Greek *hetoimasia*-

- A prepared foundation-steadiness
- Also “to be in readiness”
- Saying that we are to always have our sandals on; Prepared to be Prepared

## What does “peace” mean?

Ephesians 6:15

15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Greek *eirene*- Same as Hebrew *Shalom*

- The words perfect and peace are the same Hebrew word, means nothing lacking.
- completeness, safety, rest, soundness (in body) mind and spirit health, prosperity (To be Complete)

## What does “peace” mean?

Ephesians 6:15

Paul saying; You need to be ready before difficulties happen, so that you can stand with an assurance (peace) that comes from God.

# What is peace?

Having a supernatural mental calmness based on our trust/faith in God who is in control.

**John 14:27**

**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

## Satan's Attack

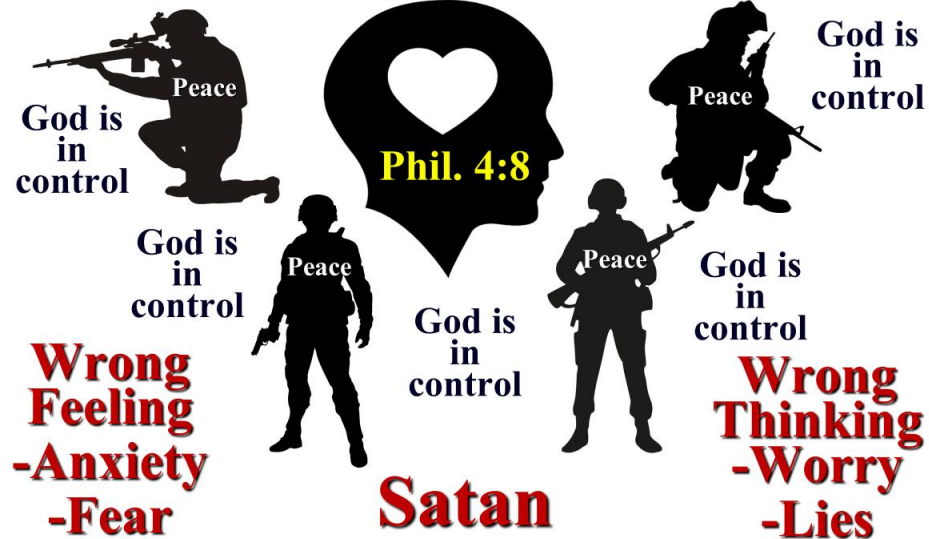
□ The enemy throws obstacles along our paths.

-Rocky relationships and rough situations.

□ The peace of God protects from injury, enabling us to keep pressing on.

□ God may give you an assignment in life that leads you through some challenging places.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Enemy's attack: Create Doubt

The third requirement for victory is to protect our spiritual feet, so we are ready to stand against life's difficulties.



Stability  
from  
God

**This Week**

# The Armor of God -Shield of Faith



**Ephesians  
6:16**



## Ephesians 6:16

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**Paul saying; We need all parts  
of the armor to work together!**

**“Put on the Whole Armor of  
God”**

**Not just whatever piece of armor  
we may need at that moment**

## **Ephesians 6:16**

**In addition to all this, take up the**

**The shield of faith protects our  
whole body, plus the other parts of  
our armor.**

# SHIELD OF FAITH



- History of the Roman war shield and flaming arrow
- Explanation of “Faith”
  - Attack of Satan
- Application to our lives

# Shield of Faith-History

□ Greek *θυρεος thyreos*:  
Shield, *scutum*: door

□ The Greek word for  
the shield means  
“like a door.”

□ The rectangular  
Roman shield was  
massive, over four  
feet tall and three  
feet wide.



# Shield of Faith-History

- To build a Roman shield, two sturdy pieces of wood were glued together to form the shield's core.
- Animal hide was then stretched tightly over the wood, (6 or so layers thick) the boards were curved inward, and a leather strap was tacked to the shield's back.





# Shield of Faith-History

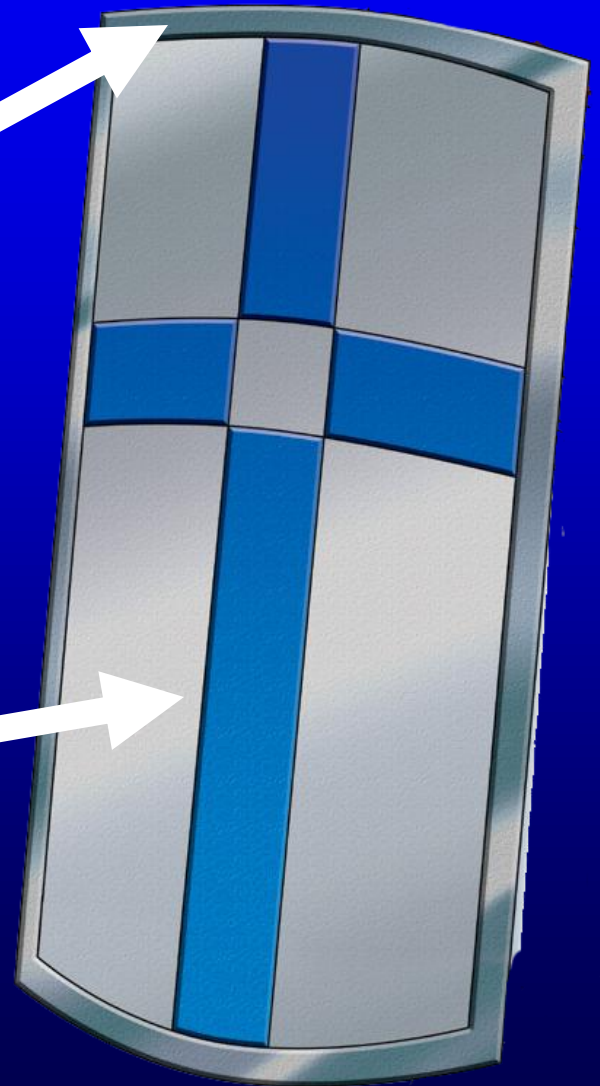
- It was slightly curved for two reasons:
1. So that the soldier had room to move about behind it as his movement changed in battle.
  2. So that spears and arrows would hit it at an angle and bounce off.



# Shield of Faith-History

□ Iron rims were then fitted along the top and bottom edges, and an iron circle was attached to the center of the shield.

□ The colors of the soldier's military unit were sometimes painted on the leather covering.



# Shield of Faith-History

□ The shield described by Paul was intended to be used with others in battle. Each one had a responsibility.



# Shield of Faith-History

□ Soldiers worked together by holding their shields together and providing more protection.

□ In the “tortoise” formation, the rows of soldiers closed all gaps between one another, protecting front, back and top all at the same time.



# Shield of Faith-History

- Before going into battle, Roman soldiers drenched their leather-covered shields with water.
- When fiery arrows struck these soaked shields, the flames burn out without any damage to the soldier or shield.



# Flaming Arrow-History

- The arrow had a heavy iron tip which was dipped into pitch and set on fire.
- The purpose was not just to injure the enemy, but also to cause confusion and panic within the opposing lines, especially when they embedded themselves into shields and began to cause the shield to burn.
- A frightened soldier would throw down his burning shield leaving himself, and those around him, unprotected from arrows.

# What does “faith” mean?

## Ephesians 6:16

In addition to all this, take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the

Greek *pistis*-

- “to have a firm persuasion”
- “to hold onto something with confidence”
- “a choice to believe, hope, be sure and certain of something that is unseen”

# What does “faith” mean?

□ Why isn't it called the Shield of Belief?

- Difference between belief and **faith**.
- Belief is an inward conviction.
- **Faith** is not only inward conviction, but also an outward action.
- Belief is accepting the promises of God that you have in Bible.
- **Faith** is acting on the promises of God.



**What does “faith” mean?**

**Hebrews 11:1**

**Now faith is being  
sure of what we  
hope for and  
certain of what we  
do not see.**

# What does “faith” mean?

- This is how we “Take” the shield of faith, by making the choice to be sure of what we hope for and making the choice to be certain of what we cannot see.
- Faith is the confidence that God is all that He says He is and will do all He says He will do.
- The shield of faith is a living faith.

# Satan attacks our body (mind, soul, spirit)



If Satan can get a child of God to drop their protective shield of faith, they will be an open target for the flaming arrows.

□ Satan knows that an unprotected soldier is a fearful soldier.

# Satan's Attack

## Satan's Plan is Distrust



□ Flaming Arrows cause us to panic, throwing away the best protection we have.

□ The mind is the battlefield



# Satan's Attack

**-What are Satan's flaming arrows?**

□ The flaming arrows of the evil one are any spiritual struggles which cause us to be hesitant in our relationship with God.

**-It causes us question and distrust God.**

□ Anything that would cause us to doubt and lead us astray, from the will of God.

# Satan's Attack

**-What are Satan's flaming arrows?**

□ Satan shoots flaming shafts of...

-Reminders of our past sins

-Evil thoughts

-Doubts

-Temptations

-Lies

-Accusations

-Selfishness

-Greed

-Pride

-E.t.c

**Satan's Message**

**-Distrust**



# Satan's Attack

**-What are Satan's flaming arrows?**

- Satan sees an area of your life that is open, unprotected and he attacks with a barrage of arrows (when it rains it pours) in hopes one will hit its mark.
  - All it takes is one to hit and the fire can spread and grow in your life.
  - The arrow hits, if that area is not dealt with in a Godly manner grows and the fire spreads.
- Becomes impulsive and recurring (mostly thoughts) which leads to compulsive and addictive behavior.**

# Satan's Attack

**-What are Satan's flaming arrows?**

➤ He wants to steal your courage.

-He wants you to live in fear.

-Fear is not the absence of faith, it is the misplacement of it.

-The devil doesn't want to rob us of our faith, he wants our faith to be in anything but God.

-Life in Jesus is life not in fear!

**Psalm 34:4** I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.



# Satan's Attack

**-What are Satan's flaming arrows?**

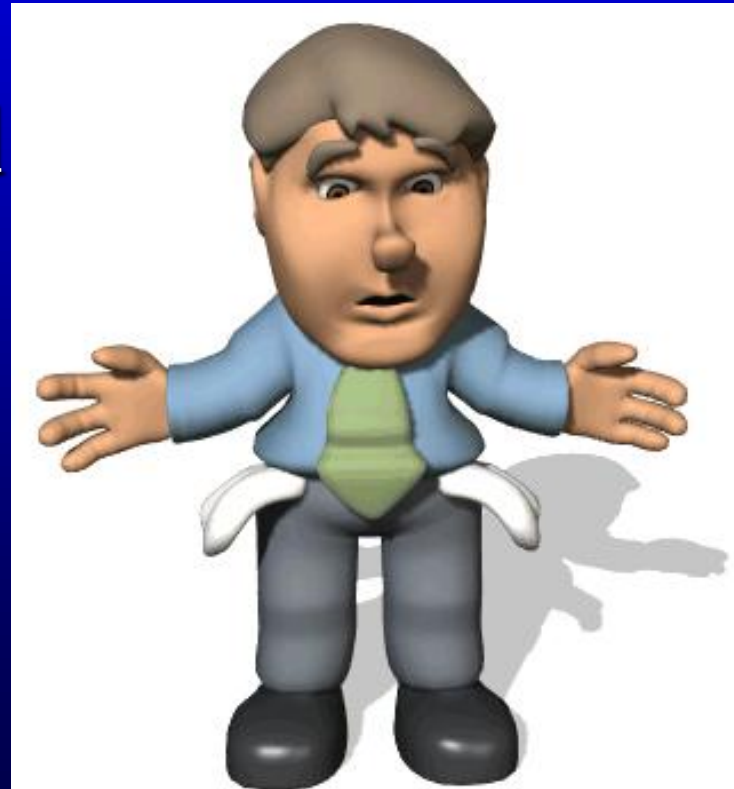
**EXAMPLE of attack**

**How I am going to pay all  
my bills this month?**

**-Flaming arrow  
of distrust or misplaced**



**Satan shoots in with  
reasons why you  
should fear**



# Satan's Attack

## -What are Satan's flaming arrows?

- ❑ You will never be able to pay all those bills. (worldly common sense)
- ❑ No matter how hard you try things just never work out. (Self pity - self centeredness)
- ❑ You need more money. (change focus from a need God can meet to a need Satan can meet)
- ❑ How can you get more coming in? (the beginning of greed and the love of money)
- ❑ I'm doing everything I'm supposed to as a Christian why is God allowing me to go through this? (time to blame God)
- ❑ Does God really care? (the death blow – doubt God's love and ability to work in your life)

# Satan's Attack

- Every temptation and distraction that Satan may hurl at God's people-can be stopped.
- Satan can't do anything he wants to you at anytime he wants.  
(or he would)
- He has to get you to agree with wrong thinking.

# Satan's Attack

**Lie-You will never be able to pay all those bills. (worldly common sense)**

**Truth-Philippians 4:19** And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

**Lie-You need more money. (change focus from a need God can meet to a need Satan can meet)**

**Truth- Hebrews 13:5** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

# Application

- Whenever we trust that God will provide everything we need, the enemy cannot tempt us with the lie that sin can provide a better life than God will.
  - We do not need to start panicking.
- Instead we just need to have faith in the shield of God.

# God is our shield -our protection

**Psalm 3:3**

**Psalm 18:2**

**Psalm 28:7**

**Psalm 33:20**

**Psalm 91:4**

**1 Peter 1:5**



# God is our shield -our protection

**2 Samuel 22:31** As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: He is a shield to all them that trust in Him.

**Psalms 7:10** My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart.

**Proverbs 30:5** Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.

# Why should I trust God with my life?

□ He's Consistent-

□ We should trust God because He is worthy of our trust.

□ **1 Cor 1:9** says that God is faithful.

- You can also count on Him and trust Him to do exactly what He says He will do every single time.

□ Unlike people, He never lies and never fails to fulfill His promises.

□ Even we are unfaithful to God, God remains faithful to us.



**Why should I trust God with my life?**

**□ He's Consistent-**

**Numbers 23:19**

**God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?**

# Why should I trust God with my life?

□ He's Concerned-

□ **1 Peter 5:7** cast, your cares, anxieties and worries on Him because He cares about you.

□ Whatever concerns you concerns Him.

□ So whenever you're faced with situations and obstacles that seem impossible let Him help carry the load and strengthen you.

# Why should I trust God with my life?

## □ He's Capable-

- We need to trust God because we have no sensible alternative.
- Should we trust in ourselves or in others who are sinful, unpredictable, unreliable, have limited wisdom, and who frequently make bad choices and decisions swayed by emotion?
- Or do we trust in the all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful, gracious, merciful, loving God who has nothing but good intentions for us?
- **Eph 3:20** says that God is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we could ask or think according to the power that He works in us.
- Even if He chooses not to grant our request, He's still capable of supplying our every need.

# Why should I trust God with my life?

- We fail to trust God because we don't know Him.
- We cannot hope to trust in someone who is a stranger to us.
- All we need to know about God, He has made available to us in the His Word.
- To know God is to trust Him.

**Psalm 119:105**

**“Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.”**

# Why should I trust God with my life?

## Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord  
with all your  
heart

and lean not on  
your own  
understanding

6 in all your ways  
submit to him,  
and he will make  
your paths  
straight.

☐ God wants us to  
trust/rely in Him -  
Not some of it,  
ALL of it

☐ It's time to admit  
you are not God  
-In ALL AREAS let  
go of control and let  
Him be God.

☐ God has a plan for  
you.

# Application

□ The shield of faith is the consistent application of what we believe about God to the issues of life.

**Romans 15:4**

For everything that was written long ago was written for our instruction, so that we might have hope through the endurance and encouragement that the Scriptures give us.

# Application

□ The soldier was safe when he **CHOSE** to stand behind his shield.

□ There are two things going on in your life.

1. What you think is best for you.

2. What God KNOWS is best for you.

□ The fire of doubt spreads even if the arrow does not kill.

-The water for your shield is trusting in God by believing what He has said.

# Application

□ The shield of faith causes the soldier to move forward

-belief in action

## Hebrews 11

(v4) - by faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice

(v7) - by faith Noah built an ark

(v8) - by faith Abraham moved to place he knew nothing about

(v29) - by faith Israelites passed through Red Sea

(v30) - by faith the walls of Jericho fell



# Application

□ When the Roman army joined its shields together, it became an almost unstoppable force.



- The shields enabled them to stand as one.
- Soldiers, who decided not to stand in formation, would be open to the enemy's attack.
- The same is true with the church.

# Enemy's attack: Distrust

The fourth requirement for  
victory is to protect our mind,  
soul, body by

**FAITHING UP TO REALITY!**

**SHIELD  
OF FAITH**



**Trust in  
God**



**□ Our continual trust in God,  
His Word, and His promises.**

**□ I choose to count on everything you  
have shown me about yourself and  
everything you have promised me  
in your Word.**

**□ Name one good thing that came from distrusting God?**

**□ Why not pick up the shield of faith?**

