

BATTLE READY

MAXIMIZING OUR GOD-GIVEN WEAPONS

THE SHIELD OF FAITH - PASTOR BRAD HOWARD

JANUARY 30, 2021

Ephesians 6:10-16 NLT

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

Fiery Arrows – intimidation warfare.

"Satan seeks to set your greatest fears on fire and brand them on your heart."

"Every boy, in his journey to become a man, takes an arrow in the center of his heart, in the place of his strength. Because the wound is rarely discussed and even more rarely healed, every man carries a wound. And the wound is nearly always given by his father." —*John Eldredge, Wild at Heart*

WHY WE RAISE OUR SHIELD OF FAITH

1. OUR FAITH IS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST ENEMY ATTACKS.

Hebrews 11:1, 6 NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

"What is faith? It is total dependence upon God that becomes supernatural in its working. Nothing else counts if faith is missing." --*Jim Cymbala*

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase." --*Martin Luther King Jr.*

Genesis 15:1 NIV

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

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2. OUR FAITH MUST BE CONNECTED WITH OTHERS FOR GREATER PROTECTION AND POWER.

Romans 1:12 TPT

... when we come together and are side by side, something wonderful will be released. We can expect to be co-encouraged and co-comforted by each other's faith!

Testudo – a military tactic known as the Tortoise Formation.



Hebrews 10:25 TPT

This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.

2 Kings 6:16-17 NIRV

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Elisha prayed, "LORD, open my servant's eyes so he can see." Then the LORD opened his eyes. He looked up and saw the hills. He saw that Elisha was surrounded by horses and chariots. Fire was all around them.

2 Chronicles 20:15 NIV

This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.