

***“The Shield of Faith:
Part II”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

July 12, 2009

Summary from Last Week

1. The shield of faith, though defensive, is not passive. We must learn to “wield the shield.”
2. The darts of the evil one are being thrown at us from close range, they are not being launched from afar.
3. To be bombarded by the flaming darts of the evil is not to sin and it does not call our faith into question.
4. When the darts do get through, this does mean we have not wielded the shield well and that we have sinned.

Defining “Faith” & “Faithfulness”

1. “Faith” means to have confidence, to rely on, to believe in, or to trust in something. It has at its root the idea of solidness or firmness so that it means to have a firm resolve about something that a person considers to be reliable or trustworthy.
2. “Faithfulness” means to be solid or firm or reliable or trustworthy.

How Does One Develop Faith?

One develops faith through experience over time.

Therefore, we can say that faith is trust in someone

or something that arises and grows through

experience over time.

How is Faith a Shield?

1. Turn to Psalm 91:1-4.
 - a. Was David being idealistic or realistic here?
 - b. If he was being realistic, how did he come to know what he asserted about God?

How is Faith a Shield?

1. Turn to 1 Peter 1:3-9.
 - a. Because of his mercy, God has caused us to be born again to a living hope that is untouchable because it's being kept in heaven for us.
 - b. By the power of God, we are being guarded (or shielded) through faith for salvation.
 - c. This is an eternal fountain of delight for all who believe, even in the midst of trials.

How is Faith a Shield?

In light of Psalm 91 & 1 Peter 1 we can say this:

The reason faith is a shield for all who believe is because faith is trust in the faithfulness of God. Our faith, in and of itself, is not what shields us from the flaming darts of the evil one; the solid, steadfast, immovable, eternal faithfulness of God in which we trust is what shields us from the flaming darts of the evil one!

How is Faith a Shield?

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

“You can be sure of what you hope for when you hope in what is sure”...and God alone is sure!

Psalm 89:1

“I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.”