

THE SHIELD OF FAITH: PART II
EPHESIANS 6:10-20
JULY 12, 2009

Questions for Study & Reflection

1. In light of the extent of the promise Paul makes in Eph 6:16, how do you make sense of the fact that the devil does barrage believers with flaming darts and that sometimes those darts do get through?
2. Look up the word "faith" in a Bible dictionary or website like www.blueletterbible.com or www.monergism.com. In light of what you find, write your own definition of faith and compare it with Pastor Charlie's definition: faith is trust in someone or something that arises and grows through experience over time.
3. Look up Psalm 91:1-4 and 1 Peter 1:3-9 and in light of them answer this question: how exactly does faith function as a shield in the lives of believers, of Christian warriors?
4. How did David and Peter come to know the things they asserted about the faithfulness of God in their respective writings? What does this tell us about the nature of faith, how it arises and grows?
5. According to Peter, how does faith relate to the trials of life which we all must endure? How does the story of Job help us to understand this?
6. Having thought through the above questions, think about Pastor Charlie's conclusion: 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!
7. Read Hebrews 11:1. Do you see how the faithfulness of God is the foundation for this statement about the nature of faith? Do you see how the faithfulness of God also grounds the statement, "You can be sure of what you hope for when you hope in what is sure"?
8. Read Psalm 89:1 and take some time to worship the Lord for his steadfast love and faithfulness!