

# Armor Up: The Shield of Faith

(Ephesians 6:16 & Various Texts)

## ***The Shield***

- The shield referred to is the large shield carried by Roman soldiers, which covered the whole person
  - Often made of a metal frame with leather overlay
- It was ideal for protecting against arrows
  - Some of which would be dipped in pitch and set aflame before being fired
  - However, the shield could be soaked in water before a battle and would thus extinguish the flaming arrows when they hit it

## ***Faith***

- Faith is about trusting in God's own faithfulness (Pro. 30:5)
  - His trustworthiness
  - His ability to keep His promises
  - His power to overcome every enemy
- As God equips us with faith, it leads to a change in our character
  - Making us more faithful, both to God & to others

## ***Faith as a Shield***

- To take the shield of faith is to apply the promises of God on our behalf with confidence that He will protect us in the midst of the battle (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 3:12)
  - Firm faith= Belief with a flint-like resolution
- Like the shield itself, there is preparation required for faith to protect us from the 'flaming arrows' of the evil one
  - We must know God & His promises to trust Him during the battle

## **Group Formation**

- God tells us that our brothers & sisters in Christ also face daily battle (1 Pet. 5:9)
- But there is an amazing thing about the Roman shield
  - It allowed battalions to use a tortoise shell formation which would protect the whole squad far better than a single soldier would be
- That is what we are supposed to do with one another (Ecc. 4:9-12)
  - To come along side & encourage
  - To remind & strengthen
  - To pick each other up when we fall
- In fact, one of the devil's favorite tactics is divide & conquer

## ***So What?***

- Are we putting our faith in our faithful God?
  - Letting Him protect us from attack
- Are we going into battle together?

**Meditation Verse: 1 Peter 5:8-9**