

**THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**  
**“SHIELDED BY FAITH”**  
**EPHESIANS 6:16**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Gladys Aylward, missionary to China more than fifty years ago, was forced to flee when the Japanese invaded Yangcheng. But she could not leave her work behind. With only one assistant, she led more than a hundred orphans over the mountains toward Free China.*

*During Gladys's harrowing journey out of war-torn Yangcheng ... she grappled with despair as never before. After a sleepless night, she faced the morning with no hope of reaching safety. A 13-year-old girl in the group reminded her of their much-loved story of Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.*

*"But I am not Moses,' Gladys cried in desperation. 'Of course you aren't,' the girl said, 'but Jehovah is still God!'" When Gladys and the orphans made it through, they proved once again that no matter how inadequate we feel, **God is still God, and we can trust in him.***  
**That's FAITH!**

**We know that FAITH is an essential element in our lives! Hebrews 11:6**  
Some folks say, I just can't have faith. Yet, we each exercise a degree of **FAITH** each and every day! The difference is the **OBJECT** of **FAITH**!

**The WORD OF GOD tells us that FAITH is essential for ETERNAL LIFE!** There is no person in this whole world that has ever or is ever going to **HEAVEN** without **FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE FOR SALVATION!**  
*Ephesians 2:8-9- "For by grace are ye saved through faith..."*

**But understand that FAITH is also essential for living a VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE! That is why it is an essential part of the BELIEVER'S ARMOR!**

*Ephesians 6:16 - "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."*

As we have already seen, the purpose of the **BELIEVER'S ARMOR** is to **STAND AGAINST** the **WILES, METHODS, or SCHEMES** of the Devil.

**We are to wear the BELT OF TRUTH - THE WORD OF GOD!**

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**We are to wear the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** realizing that we are **CRUCIFIED** with **CHRIST**, and that **CHRIST IS ALIVE** in us, we should, by **FAITH**, allow **CHRIST TO LIVE THROUGH US!**

**We are also to STAND** with our feet shod with the **PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE! BEING FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT, FOCUSED ON CHRIST**, and having **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD** that brings all problems to **HIM** in **PRAYER!**

**Now, let's see the importance of FAITH as a DEFENSIVE WEAPON!**

We, as **BELIEVERS**, go through trying circumstances as others do! ***"I just don't know what people without the LORD do in situations like that."***

Sometimes **circumstances** come which are much bigger than us! And because they are **beyond our abilities**, and so all we can do is **TRUST THE LORD** to get us through it!

What a **BLESSING** it is to be able to **TRUST THE LORD!**

Let's look at three things with regard to **FAITH**:

*THE PRIORITY OF FAITH...PROCEDURE OF FAITH...PROFIT OF FAITH...*

**I. LET'S SEE THE PRIORITY OF FAITH.**

**FAITH** is an essential for living a **VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE!** You see the words *"above all"* here.

**In addition to the BELT, the BREASTPLATE and the SHOES, the CHRISTIAN SOLDIER is also to take the SHIELD OF FAITH!**

There were two types of **SHIELDS** used by soldiers:  
One was a **SMALL SHIELD** used for hand to hand combat.  
The other **SHIELD**, which is referred to here, was about 2 ½ feet wide and 4 ½ feet tall. **It was big enough to hide behind when the enemy started throwing things!**

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This **SHIELD** was covered with metal or heavily oiled leather.

On the front lines of **BATTLE**, soldiers would stand side by side, one **SHIELD** next to the other, so that a **DEFENSIVE WALL** would be formed.

Our **SHIELD** is called the *"SHIELD OF FAITH,"* and it needs to be a **PRIORITY** in our lives.

*Hebrews 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please him:”*

Another word for *"FAITH"* is *"TRUST"*!

**TRUST is an important part of a friendship!**  
Friendships are sometimes ruined by a lack of **TRUST**!

**TRUST is an important part of marriage!**  
I have seen marriages that were ruined by a lack of **TRUST**!  
When **TRUST** is violated, it takes a long time for a marriage to be restored, if it ever is restored.

**TRUST is important between parents and children!**

When a child can't **TRUST** the parent, and/or the parent can't **TRUST** the child, the whole relationship can be strained!

**But what's really sad is when a TRUSTWORTHY PERSON is NOT TRUSTED by the other person in the relationship!**

If a wife is **TRUSTWORTHY** but not **TRUSTED** by her husband, that's not good!

If a child is **TRUSTWORTHY** but not **TRUSTED** by the parents, that's not good!

If a friend is **TRUSTWORTHY** and not **TRUSTED** by his or her friend, that friendship is in trouble!

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**OK so: Can GOD be TRUSTED? Of course HE can! In fact HE can be TRUSTED more than any other PERSON!**

Well, when we do not **TRUST** our **TRUSTWORTHY GOD**, that's not a good thing either!

How can we tell we are not **TRUSTING GOD**?

When we **WORRY**!

When we **FEAR**!

When we **RELY ON OUR FLESH** instead of **RELYING ON GOD**, and in doing so we allow **TEMPTATION** to **CONQUER** us!

It is obvious in these situations that we are simply not **TRUSTING HIM... not** using the **SHIELD OF FAITH**!

Have you ever stopped to think why we **TRUST** people?

We might **TRUST** them because they are **FAMILY**!

We might **TRUST** them because they are **FRIENDS**!

We might **TRUST** them because we know **THEY CARE**!

We might **TRUST** them because in our hearts **WE BELIEVE THEY HAVE WHAT'S NEEDED TO HELP US**!

We might **TRUST** them because they have **PROVEN THEMSELVES TRUSTWORTHY**!

Well, **WHY SHOULD WE TRUST GOD**?

We should **TRUST HIM** because **HE IS FAMILY** - Our loving **HEAVENLY FATHER**!

We should **TRUST HIM** because **HE** is our **FRIEND**!

We should **TRUST HIM** because we know **HE CARES**!

We should **TRUST HIM** because **HE** has the **POWER or ABILITY TO HELP US**!

We should **TRUST HIM** because **HE** has **PROVEN HIMSELF TRUSTWORTHY**!

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Bottom line: We **CAN TRUST** the **ONE WHO** sent **HIS SON** to die for us! **Romans 8:32** - *“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”*

How many times have we personally disappointed our wonderful **HEAVENLY FATHER** and our wonderful **LORD** with our **LACK OF FAITH?**

How many times have we **GRIEVED HIS HOLY SPIRIT?:**

With our **WORRYING** and **FRETTING?**

With our **DOUBTS** and **FEARS?**

When we are **NOT TRUSTING GOD**, we are **NOT PLEASING** our **GOD!** Because **WITHOUT FAITH** it is **IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD!** (*Hebrews 11:6*)

*So, WE SEE THE PRIORITY OF FAITH*

**II. LET’S SEE THE PROCEDURE OF FAITH.**

There is a rather explicit command here.

**We are to “take” the SHIELD OF FAITH!**

In other words, we are to **make use of it!**

*I remember my mom use to carry a small umbrella in her pocketbook. But if it started to rain, that small umbrella could not keep her dry if she didn’t actually pull it out and use it!*

It’s the same way with **FAITH!** **It's no good, unless we USE it!**  
**Actually it doesn't even exist, if we don't USE it!**

**How do we “take” the SHIELD OF FAITH?**

*Hebrews 11:6* - *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

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Notice there are two things mentioned in that verse which we must do to **USE** the **SHIELD OF FAITH:**

**First we must BELIEVE THAT GOD IS!**

And you might be thinking, *“Why pastor we all believe in the existence of God.”*

I think we all **BELIEVE in our HEAD**, but we don't always **PRACTICE BELIEF in our HEART** because sometimes **WE DON’T ACT LIKE WE BELIEVE IN GOD!**

We can say we **BELIEVE IN GOD**, but **DO WE TRUST HIM** in tight jams?

We can say we **BELIEVE IN GOD**, but **DO WE CARE ABOUT HIS THOUGHTS REGARDING OUR BEHAVIOR?**

We can say we **BELIEVE IN GOD**, but are we ever **CONCERNED ABOUT HURTING HIM?**

We can say we **BELIEVE IN GOD**, but do we **WORRY AS IF HE DOESN’T EXIST?**

We can say we **BELIEVE IN GOD**, but if **WE ACT AND LIVE AS IF THERE IS NO GOD, WE DON’T REALLY BELIEVE IN HIM LIKE WE SHOULD!**

By taking the **SHIELD OF FAITH**, we **BELIEVE IN GOD** as an integral part of our every day life!

But there's more. **Not only are we to BELIEVE IN GOD’S EXISTENCE, but we are to BELIEVE THAT HE REWARDS THOSE THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM!**

**How can we tell if we BELIEVE THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM? This is not complicated!**  
**We BELIEVE THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM IF WE DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM!**

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Millions of people say they **BELIEVE THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!** The ones who **TRULY BELIEVE THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER ARE THOSE WHO PRAY DILIGENTLY!**

**And after they have PRAYED, they simply BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL ANSWER! That's FAITH!**

*Psalm 37:5 - “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”*

*Psalm 91:2 - “I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 - “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

So **TAKE THE SHIELD OF FAITH!** Whatever you do, **BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS** and **BELIEVE THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM!**

(And do so by your **ACTIONS!**)

*WE SEE THE PRIORITY OF FAITH...PROCEDURE OF FAITH...*

**III. LET'S SEE THE PROFIT OF FAITH.**

Just as a bullet proof vest protects a police officer, the **SHIELD OF FAITH** protects the **BELIEVER**. When the **ROMAN soldier** faced **FIERY DARTS** hurled by the enemy, his **SHIELD** with its leather lining would **CATCH** and then **QUENCH** them.

When we put up the **SHIELD OF FAITH**, Satan's **FIERY DARTS** are also **QUENCHED!** His **FIERY DARTS** are **TEMPTATIONS!**

We are **TEMPTED TO BE IMMORAL!**

We are **TEMPTED TO LIE AND/OR STEAL!**

We are **TEMPTED TO THINK EVIL THOUGHTS!**

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We are **TEMPTED TO WORRY, FRET, OR FEAR!**  
We are **TEMPTED TOWARDS UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER!**

As we hold up the **SHIELD OF FAITH**, those **FIERY DARTS** are put out and don't hurt us!

But listen, there's even more **PROFIT** that comes with our **TRUST!** In **Proverbs 3:5-6**, we are **PROMISED** that **AS WE TRUST GOD, HE WILL DIRECT OUR PATHS!**

In **Hebrews 11:6** we are told that **GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM!**

And **Psalm 91:1** **PROMISES PROTECTION** for those who **TRUST HIM!**

*“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”*

*Psalm 46:1-2 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*

*THE PRIORITY OF FAITH*  
*THE PROCEDURE OF FAITH*  
*THE PROFIT OF FAITH*

**Conclusion**

So, are you availing yourself of the **SHIELD OF FAITH?**