

Live Stronger: Shield of Faith
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Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints ...

The primary battlefield is the mind.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Devil: Diabolos

Dia: Idea of penetration

Ballo: Blow against something over and over

Stronghold: mindset impregnated with hopelessness which causes us to accept as unchangeable situations that we know are contrary to the will of God

Ephesians 6:16 NKJV

... above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Romans 10:17 NKJV

... faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

3 Keys to the Shield of Faith:

1. God's Word is true.

Ephesians 2:2-3 AMP

... in which you once walked. You were following the ways of this world [influenced by this present age], in accordance with the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit who is now at work in the disobedient [the unbelieving, who fight against the purposes of God]. Among these [unbelievers] we all once lived in the passions of our flesh [our behavior governed by the sinful self], indulging the desires of human nature [without the Holy Spirit] and [the impulses] of the [sinful] mind. We were, by nature, children [under the sentence] of [God's] wrath, just like the rest [of mankind].

Aiona: specific allotted time; the spirit of a particular period of time in the world; a way of popular thinking of a particular time and generation

- Completely dominated by the whim of the times
- Controlled by the thinking of the hour
- Enslaved to the thinking patterns of the world

John 17:13-17 NIV

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the

evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 8:31-32 NKJV

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2. God’s Word is His will.

- Faith begins where the will of God is known.
- The will of God is the Word of God.

1 John 5:14-15 NIV

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

God’s Word cannot fail.

Matthew 24:35 NIV

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

John 15:7 NIV

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”