



The Spiritual Armor

Part 6: The Shield of Faith

In examining our divine resource of the spiritual armor, we come next to the shield of faith. Appropriately represented as a moveable implement of protection, faith is needed in many areas of our lives in order to provide the spiritual protection we need. In fact, it plays an integral role in each of the other pieces of the armor, in addition to wielding its own protective power against the enemy's attacks. ³

Faith enables us to hold tightly to the assurance of our **salvation** whenever Satan flings arrows of doubt at us (1 John 5:13). Faith also enables us to resist Satan's urgings to the contrary and to speak **truth** in all situations, knowing that God will always honor it (Mat. 5:37; Ps. 24:3-5).

Faith is critical to allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives and to direct them in **righteousness** instead of following the evil desires Satan has implanted in our flesh (Gal. 5:16, 25). Faith also enables us to cling to God's promises and the reality of our inheritance from Him so that the Satan-designed allurements of the world do not entice us into sin (2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:4).

Through faith we also grasp the absolute security of our relationship to God as a loving Father (Rom. 8:15, 35-39) and His unfailing presence with us (Mat. 28:20; Heb. 13:5), providing the antidote to fear and anxiety and enhancing **peace** in our lives (John 14:27; 16:33; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7), even in the face of death, which was formerly one of Satan's most powerful weapons against us (Ps. 23:4; 1 Cor. 15:55-57; Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 12:11). Walking in the peace of God and allowing it to characterize our lives and relationships (Rom. 12:8; Col. 3:15) also prevents anger, fear, and anxiety from becoming footholds that Satan can use to gain an advantage in our lives (Gen. 4:6-7; 2 Cor. 2:10-11; Eph. 4:26-27).

Learning to expect and to rely upon the powerful **Sword of the Spirit** to be given to us when confronting evil requires faith as well. Faith also emboldens us to speak these divinely given words with confidence, knowing that God will powerfully use them to accomplish His purposes (Isa. 55:11; Luke 21:12-15; Acts 13:8-12).

Faith is also vital on its own for blocking or nullifying the effects of the evil one's attacks against us. We cannot keep the attacks from coming (Eph. 6:11-12; Heb. 12:4; 1 Peter 5:8), but through faith we can stand effectively against them so that they do no damage in our lives. Our faith must be, first of all, in God's absolute supremacy over the realm of darkness (Isa. 45:21-23; Eph. 1:19-23; Phil. 2:9-10). He is the Master Potter and has complete control over all that He created (Ps. 82:1; Isa. 29:16; 45:9), including the angels that fell when they chose to follow Lucifer in rebelling against Him (Rev. 12:3-4) or that committed abominable acts following that time (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

Our faith must also be in the spiritual transactions that occurred through Christ's death on the Cross and our personal expression of faith in that sacrificial act on our behalf (John 5:24; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 John 5:13). By personally paying for man's sins with His own blood (Rom. 5:6-8; Heb. 7:26-27; 9:15; Rev. 5:9), Jesus reversed the legal right that Satan gained in the Garden of Eden to take dominion over mankind (Col. 1:13-14). Once we have entered by faith into a covenant relationship with Christ (Mat. 26:28; John 1:12; 3:16), we are no longer Satan's slaves (Rom. 6:22; Gal. 4:4-7). While Satan can still exert influence in our lives if we are lax in keeping our spiritual armor in place (Eph. 6:11-13), he is only able to gain a sustainable foothold if we willfully enter into sin (Gen. 4:7; Eph. 4:26-27) or link ourselves to him in some way (John 8:37-47; Acts 13:8-10; Rev. 2:9, 20; 3:9).

Since Jesus is the One who gained the victory over Satan *for us* through His death, burial, and resurrection and has been seated in a position of authority far above every rank of evil that exists, our faith must also be in His mediation of that authority to us in spiritual battle. That this is God's intent is seen by Christ being graciously given, in His authoritative position, to be Head of the Church and every believer being seated with Him in this same victorious position in the heavenlies (Eph. 1:19-23; 2:6). Because of this we can confidently command the obedience of demonic forces "in the name of Jesus" (Acts 16:18) and request Him to rebuke the higher level cosmic beings on our behalf (Jude 9).