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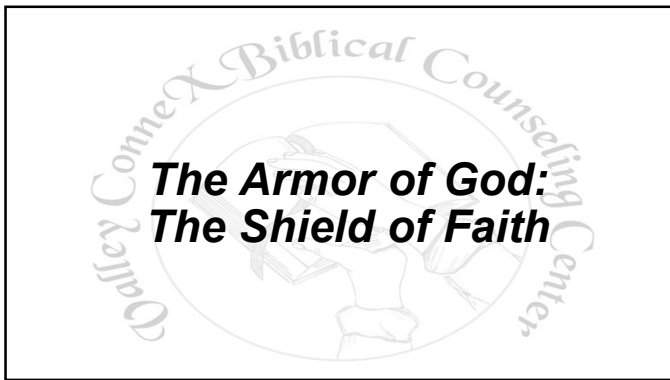
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The function of the large shield for a Roman soldier

- Primary function was to protect against the archery barrage that preceded the main attack.

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The Armor of God

• *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm.*

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The Armor of God

• *Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”* (Ephesians 6:10–18, ESV)

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Observations

- Our strength to live and minister effectively comes exclusively from our Lord Jesus Christ.
- People are not the enemy.
- We must always factor in the opposing spiritual activity in our lives and the lives of those we are serving.

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πίστις

*pistis*  
faith

Confidence in God

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In the very first engagement with the human race, the enemy of our soul introduced doubt.

Concerning God's authority.

- *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"" (Genesis 3:1, ESV)*

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In the very first engagement with the human race, the enemy of our soul introduced doubt.

Concerning God's Word

- *"But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die." (Genesis 3:4-, ESV)*

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In the very first engagement with the human race, the enemy of our soul introduced doubt.

Concerning God's wisdom

- *"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (Genesis 3:5, ESV)

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In the next major engagement with the "second Adam", the enemy of our soul continued raising doubt.

Concerning identity

- *"The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."* (Luke 4:3, ESV)

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In the next major engagement with the "second Adam", the enemy of our soul continued raising doubt.

Concerning identity

- *"And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,"* (Luke 4:9, ESV)

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People are the vehicle the devil uses most often to hurl the doubts

• *“And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.””* (Luke 23:35–38, ESV)

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Trust in God overcomes these doubts raised by people.

- Psalm 42
- Psalm 71

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HEBREWS 11:1 HEBREWS

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

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The indispensable place of faith.

- *“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6, ESV)*

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The indispensable place of faith.

- *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”” (Romans 1:16–17, ESV)*

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Two main responsibilities of the biblical counselor

- Remind of the provision and efficacy of the shield of faith.
- *“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;” (Ephesians 6:16, ESV)*

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Two main responsibilities of the biblical counselor

- Instruct and encourage on how to apply the shield of faith to the doubts hurled our way.
- *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6, ESV)*

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A Demonstration of Faith and Doubt Matthew 14:22-33

- Peter’s request reflected a great confidence in the power and authority of God.
- Peter’s step of faith was based on the clear direction of Jesus.
- Fear is the most serious enemy of faith.
- Faith can be regained quickly.

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