



THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Week 55 | June 17, 2025

*"In addition to all of these, hold up the **shield of faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil."*

Ephesians 6:16

A **good archer** can exploit the cracks in any armor, targeting those gaps between the pieces in order to find a way of injuring the soldier underneath. This is when a **shield** is *essential*. As a mobile defensive covering, shields are vital in **absorbing** Enemy *blows*, **redirecting** their *attacks*, and **stopping** many of their *assaults* dead in their tracks. Protection like this is what allows a soldier to advance even in the **thick of battle**, taking ground even as the arrows fall *all around them*.

God has given us a covering like this. Our shield of faith is a **gift** from above that *gives us power* to see God's hand at work here on earth ([Ephesians 2:8](#); [Matthew 21:21](#)). This faith can be **strengthened** by prayer ([Mark 9:24](#)), but what *kind of faith* do we need? In this time of trial and this **season of turmoil**, what we need is a faith that is:

1. BOLD ([Hebrews 11:1](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Weakness and *timidity* have stifled the **lives** and **prayers** of Christians for far too long. The Enemy has convinced many believers that in order to be a good follower of Christ, to be truly *humble* and *meek*, that they must also embrace an attitude of **hesitation** and **indecision**, fearfully second-guessing everything in life—including and especially *themselves*. This mindset ruins our **effectiveness** and slows the advancement of the Gospel to a snail's pace, just as Satan desired. What we really need, what this *lost and dying world* needs, is men and women of God who are willing to boldly **pray**, **speak**, and **live out** their faith. ([2 Timothy 1:7](#); [2 Corinthians 3:12](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord God, thank You for *gifting* us **Your Spirit** as evidence of our adoption into the family. You are neither *weak* nor *timid*, and neither is Your Spirit. Instead, You are **bold** and **courageous**, powerful in both word and action. Fill us today with that same *confidence*, inspiring us with a **fiery faith** that knows no fear, but instead overwhelms all anxiety. Silence the voice of the Enemy in our hearts, and instead teach us **Your way** of living in *power, love, and self-control*."
 1. **REMEMBER:** *Miracles* come as we take a leap of faith, but **courage** is essential in doing so. ([Matthew 14:29](#))

2. ACTIVE ([James 2:17-18](#))

- a. **NOTE:** If the Enemy can't stop you from *believing* they will do everything in their power to stop you from acting on those beliefs; for even Satan knows how useless **fruitless faith** truly is. We don't need anymore "*arm-chair quarterback*" believers, Christians attempting to safely evangelize from the **comfort** of their couch or the **safety** of their pew. We need a faith that sparks *mobility*, that compels *action*, that results in *movement, change, and progress*. We need a faith that leads us to **walk** what we **talk** and show the world the God we serve by our *actions* and *behavior*. ([James 2:26](#); [2 Corinthians 5:7](#))

- i. **For Ex.** “Dear God, thank You for being a god who not only **speaks** but **acts**. Thank You for *revealing* and *demonstrating* who You are through all of Your various works and deeds, for showing us **Your nature** through the *life of Jesus*. Give us today a faith that moves not only mountains, but **our feet** as well. Give us a faith that *compels* us to act and *inspires* us to live out what we believe. Overwhelm our tendency towards **inaction**, Lord, and drive us into a *motion* that mirrors Your own.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** *Inaction* is really **regression**, if we aren't moving forward we're *sliding backward*. ([Revelation 3:15-16](#))

3. FOCUSED ([James 1:6-8](#))

- a. **NOTE:** Faith can be **misplaced** and **misdirected**. Like grabbing *the wrong shield* as we head into battle, when we place our faith in anything but God alone we trade our **impenetrable defense** of *steel* for one made of flimsy plastic. Is it any wonder then that it quickly **buckles** and *disintegrates* under the attacks of the Enemy? To avoid this **mistake** and the *devastating consequences* that follow, we must remain laser focused on the **source** and **sustainer** of our faith, blind to every attempt to *distract* or *divert* our attention and holding tightly to He that is our **firm foundation**. ([Hebrews 12:2](#); [Isaiah 26:3](#); [Isaiah 28:16](#))
 - i. **For Ex.** “Dear Lord, thank You for **initiating** and **perfecting** our faith, for providing us *the perfect example* on which to focus. Grant us today **Holy Blinders** against anything that might attempt to *distract* or *divert* our attention, keeping our gaze fixed firmly on You instead. Reveal to us every area that we have placed greater faith in something **other than You**, exposing our *counterfeit shields* for the poor substitute they truly are. For **You alone** are worthy of *all our trust*, You alone are our firm foundation.”
 1. **REMEMBER:** We *face towards* what we **focus on**. The most courageous movement is wasted if we're heading in the *wrong direction*. ([Ps. 119:59](#))

Questions for Reflection:

- Has your **courage failed** as you're *waiting for a miracle*?
 - Love is the true source of all bravery, ask God to **refuel** yours today!
- Have you **backslidden** in your *complacency*?
 - The best way to retake that ground is one-step at a time. The best time to start is **today**!
- Has your **bravery** been wasted in *wayward movement*?
 - Sometimes we have to turn around and **go back** to where we *veered off course*. Don't grow discouraged, the sooner you do so the shorter distance you have to travel!