

Ephesians 6:16 ESV

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

NKJV

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

AMPLIFIED

Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

I Faith is to be taken up at all times above all else!

II Faith quenches/stops ALL the flaming darts of the enemy.

A The ONLY weapon that the enemy has against you is lying thoughts

III Faith believes in the truth, even when all the circumstances contradict that truth.

IV What is faith?

A Sometimes when we think about “faith” and “having faith” we get all tied in knots. This is most likely because in many instances the concept of having faith has been turned into a work. **FAITH IS NOT A WORK, IT IS A RESPONSE BASED ON FACTS.**

1 In the natural realm, we know there is electricity behind a light switch, so we confidently turn it on.

2 In the supernatural, God gives to us by His grace, and we confidently receive it by faith.

B It helps to understand that the words *faith* and *believe* come from the same Greek root. Faith is usually used as a noun. Believe is usually used as a verb.

1 Faith in the Greek is “pistis”:

persuasion, credence, moral conviction, assurance, belief, faith

WITHOUT THE
GRACE OF GOD,
THERE IS

NO PURPOSE
FOR FAITH.

WITHOUT FAITH,
THE GRACE OF GOD
DOES NOT
BENEFIT US.

2 Believe is “pisteuō”: *to believe, to have faith, to entrust*

FAITH = BELIEF ⇔ to have faith = to believe

3 What does it mean “to believe”?

- a Believing has to do with trusting, resting, completely relying on the truth. When someone believes God, he/she is putting his/her complete trust in God being who He says He is and in God doing what He says He will do. TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD IS SIMPLY TO TRUST HIM TO BE WHO HE IS AND DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO. It is a complete state of rest and hope. We don't work up hope. We hope BECAUSE we trust in HIM.

- 4 **Faith works by love and is a fruit of the Spirit.** When we know God loves us and is for us and not against us, believing just happens. We totally trust that He is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do because we know He loves us. The more we know and believe that we are loved by God, the easier it becomes to simply rest in that love and have faith (believe) in Him.

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

- a “Working” is the word *energeo*. It means “to be active, efficient: to be effectual, be mighty in”.
- b The word “through” is “the channel through which”.

Faith is activated, made efficient, made effectual, made mighty through the channel of (or by means of) love.

Romans 8:31-32

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

- c When we know God is on our side, we know He will FREELY give us all things. (“Freely” and “gives” both come from *charis* (grace)).

***God graciously graces us with all things.
 We can have faith in this.***

5 Hebrews 11:1 AMPLIFIED

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Wuest Word Studies: "Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is real seeing."

a Faith is not "blind". Faith is based on facts.

- We believe in God. We believe He WILL do what HE promises. We believe He loves us. We believe He WILL graciously grace us with all things.

b Believing is receiving.

- When we express our beliefs in words or take an action based on our beliefs...this is when we receive.

Romans 10:9-10

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

◆ Here **confession** results in receiving salvation.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

◆ Here **coming boldly** results in obtaining mercy and finding grace to help in time of need.

IT'S JUST NOT THAT COMPLICATED.

We don't "say" or "do" in order to get faith.

We don't "say" or "do" in order to receive.

We confess or take action because we believe in HIM.

We believe because HE IS FAITHFUL.

God spoke and the worlds were created from nothing.

We are not God.

We speak forth things that already exist...His promises.

➔ Jesus authored our faith, and He is finishing it. ←

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

V We all have faith, and our faith can grow.

Romans 12:3

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

2 Corinthians 10:15

not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.

VI Who has great faith?

The only two people who Jesus said had great faith were Gentiles.

- They didn't know the law and weren't trying to live under the law.
- They didn't try to believe and receive from God based on their goodness or religious actions, nor were they relying on a formula for receiving.
- **They simply believed in the goodness of Jesus to meet their need.**

Matthew 8:5-10

*And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, ⁶and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." ⁷Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."⁸But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹"For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."¹⁰Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such **great faith** with anyone in Israel.*

Matthew 15:21-28

*Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."²³But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us."²⁴But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."²⁵But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"²⁶And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."²⁷But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."²⁸Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your **faith is great**; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.*

VII Faith only comes from hearing the correct message, the good message of good things from a good God.

Romans 10:8, 14, 15, 17

But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, **the word of faith which we are preaching,**

vs. 14 **And how will they hear without a preacher?**

vs. 15 "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING **GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!**"

vs. 17 ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

When we hear the good news about the good things of God, faith comes and grows in our hearts.

VIII Faith grows effortlessly and naturally when we immerse ourselves in the goodness and love of God.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, **faith,**²³ Meekness, temperance: **against such there is no law.**

IX Because we are righteous by faith (our breastplate and shield), no weapon formed against us will prosper.

Isaiah 54:11

No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
And every tongue which rises against you in judgment
You shall condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,

And their righteousness is from Me,"

Says the LORD.

A The fiery darts of the devil are extinguished by our faith in Jesus by which we are made righteous. (Notice that the shield of faith covers the breastplate of righteousness.) The enemy will lie to us about who we are and what God promised, but all his fiery darts will be extinguished because we know and have faith in who He is, who He has made us, and in what He has promised.

For Additional Meditation

X Throughout Scripture, God is presented as our shield. Our protection comes from our faith in Him.

Genesis 15:1

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

Psalm 3:3

But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head.

Psalm 5:12

For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 18:2

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:30

As for God, His way is blameless; the word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

Psalm 18:35

You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your gentleness makes me great.

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalm 33:20

Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

Psalm 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Walking uprightly under the Old Covenant was keeping the commandments. Walking uprightly under the New Covenant is believing in His Son and loving one another. 1 John 3:23)