

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

EL ESCUDO DE LA FE

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

OPEN WITH... SERMON SPICE VIDEO CLIP “ARMOR OF GOD”

Eph 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks. Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. That is why you need to put on God's full armor. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist and the protection of right living on your chest. On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. And also use the shield of faith with which you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people. Also pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear. I have been sent to preach this Good News, and I am doing that now, here in prison. Pray that when I preach the Good News I will speak without fear, as I should.

Efesios 6:10-20

*10 Por último, fortalézcanse con el gran poder del Señor. 11 Pónganse toda la armadura de Dios para que puedan hacer frente a las artimañas del diablo. 12 Porque nuestra lucha no es contra *seres humanos, sino contra poderes, contra autoridades, contra potestades que dominan este mundo de tinieblas, contra fuerzas espirituales malignas en las regiones celestiales. 13 Por lo tanto, pónganse toda la armadura de Dios, para que cuando llegue el día malo puedan resistir hasta el fin con firmeza. 14 Manténganse firmes, ceñidos con el cinturón de la verdad, protegidos por la coraza de justicia, 15 y calzados con la disposición de proclamar el *evangelio de la paz. 16 Además de todo esto, tomen el escudo de la fe, con el cual pueden apagar todas las flechas encendidas del maligno. 17 Tomen el casco de la salvación y la espada del Espíritu, que es la palabra de Dios.*

*18 Oren en el Espíritu en todo momento, con peticiones y ruegos. Manténganse alerta y perseveren en oración por todos los *santos.*

*19 Oren también por mí para que, cuando hable, Dios me dé las palabras para dar a conocer con valor el *misterio del evangelio, 20 por el cual soy embajador en cadenas. Oren para que lo proclame valerosamente, como debo hacerlo.*

BASIC PRESUMPTIONS

1. WE ARE IN A WAR!

¡ESTAMOS PARTE DE UNA GUERRA!

Notice the ongoing use of the word fight

2. IT IS A SPIRITUAL WAR!

¡ES UNA GUERRA ESPIRITUAL!

We have an enemy. Generally we view this enemy as here on earth; people and situations are the enemy. Paul says it is Satan and other rulers in the “heavenly realms.” He makes it very clear that we cannot stand against the enemy – Satan. Satan is fighting us, he is aligning spiritual rulers against us and he is throwing flaming arrows at us. Temptation is coming from all sides

3. WE HAVE PROTECTIVE ARMOR!

¡TENEMOS ARMADURA PROTECTORA!

We have a choice of going to war naked or with armor. This decision is every day.

Here are the pieces of armor

1. A Belt of Truth

❖ *Un Cinturón de la Verdad*

2. The Good News of peace as footwear

❖ *El Evangelio de Paz como Calzado*

3. A Shield of Faith

❖ *Un Escudo de la Fe*

4. Helmet of Salvation

❖ *Un Casco de la Salvación*

5. The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

❖ *La Espada del Espíritu, cual es La Palabra de Dios*

And in addition to the pieces of armor, pray and keep on praying because we need to be in constant communication with our commandant.

I want to focus our attention for the next few weeks on one piece of armor that God gives us. It is the shield of faith / *el escudo de la fe*.

Paul says that Satan and those working for him are throwing flaming arrows at you. Temptation is coming at you in all forms from all directions. If you are going to

make it, you will have to have this shield of faith raised and in use. Faith is a shield. It is a defensive weapon.

Faith is a tough thing to get a handle on. Now, yell out your response to this question. Complete this sentence. Faith is _____?

Faith is Peg, Johnathan, Travis and Trevor standing on the side of a swimming pool wanting to jump in, having doubts and fears but jumping in.

Faith is standing on the edge of a cliff with a small nylon harness around me, stepping over the edge and trusting the rope and harness to hold me.

Faith is getting into an airplane and buckling up, despite knowing you will be flying so high in a relatively small piece of metal.

Faith is jumping out of a plane with only a parachute on your back.

Faith is praying over a situation and giving it to God and not worrying.

Faith is doing what God says to do regardless of what you fear will happen.

Faith is putting in your tithe in spite of the word you may lose your job.

The substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews/Hebreos 11:1

Ahora bien, la fe es la garantía de lo que se espera, la certeza de lo que no se ve.

When we talk about faith we need to understand that Faith isn't something you have, it is something you do! Faith is an action word!

La fe no es algo que tiene, es algo que hace. ¡Fe es una palabra de acción!

The Word of God says that faith is a key ingredient in the life of a Christian. It is so central, so essential that often being a Christian is called the life of faith.

In verse 6 of Hebrews 11 we are told...

Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him. Hebrews/ Hebreos 11:6

En realidad, sin fe es imposible agradar a Dios, ya que cualquiera que se acerca a Dios tiene que creer que él existe y que recompensa a quienes lo buscan.

Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by grace through faith. We can't be a Christian without faith.

Over and over again Jesus said to sick and crippled people, you faith has made you whole. Prayers for healing will not be answered without faith.

Prayer must be accompanied with faith to be answered.

If we want wisdom we can ask God for it, but we have to have faith or we will not get anything from God.

Faith is essential to live life, yet, there is so much within us that goes against faith. We can't see God, we can't understand his ways at times.

God promises us victory, and yet so many times we live defeated.

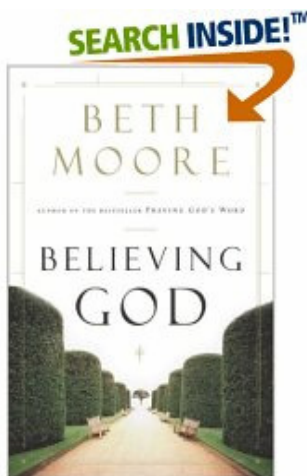
God promises us his blessing, and yet so many times we live needy.

God promises us a great harvest, and yet so many churches go years without spiritual fruit and growth.

Why is this. We have to believe.

So this series will deal with five critical truths that form our faith. These are things that we have to know, believe and act on so that our shield of faith is lifted up.

This concept comes from Beth Moore's book *Believing God*. I recommend it to you, it is inspirational and will help build your faith. www.believingGod.com



You can also go on line and participate in an online Bible study of Faith.

In her book *Believing God* Beth Moore talks about the Roman Shield and how important it was to the soldier.

She has a little practice in the book that I have used since reading the book and I want to give it to you. It is taking up the shield of faith.

When you are in the fight, when you are struggling to believe and obey, when Satan is hitting you hard lift up the shield of faith.

Raise your hand and arm like you had a shield. Lift it up as if you are defending yourself from literal flaming arrows from Satan Recite these faith statements.

1. I believe God is who he says he is and will do what he says he will do!

Creo que Dios es quien dice y que hará que dice que va a hacer.

2. I believe I am who God says I am and I can do whatever he asks me to do!

¡Creo que soy quien Dios dice y que puedo hacer todo que me pregunta a hacer!

3. The Word of God is true, alive and powerful!

¡La Palabra de dios es verdad, está viva, y es poderosa!

4. Prayer changes things!

¡El rezo cambia cosas!

5. The Church is the Body of Christ and together we can accomplish Jesus mission!

¡La Iglesia es el Cuerpo de Dios y juntos podemos alcanzar la misión de Jesús!

We are going to work through these for the next several weeks so we understand what each of these statements mean and how they form a faith defense of Satan's schemes in our life.

Before we stop and leave today, let's read this passage of scripture once again, this time from a different version: *The Message*.

Ephesians 6:10-20 from *The Message*

God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll

walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

And don't forget to pray for me. Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all, the Message that I, jailbird preacher that I am, am responsible for getting out.

Efesios 6:10-20

Finalmente, dejen que el gran poder de Cristo les dé las fuerzas necesarias. Protéjense con la armadura que Dios les ha dado, y así podrán resistir los ataques del diablo. Porque no luchamos contra gente como nosotros, sino contra espíritus malvados que actúan en el cielo. Ellos imponen su autoridad y su poder en el mundo actual. Por lo tanto, ¡protéjense con la armadura completa! Así, cuando llegue el día malo, podrán resistir los ataques del enemigo. Y cuando hayan peleado hasta el fin, seguirán estando firmes.

¡Manténganse alerta! Que la verdad y la justicia de Dios los vistan y protejan como una armadura. Compartan la buena noticia de la paz; ¡estén siempre listos a anunciarla! Que su confianza en Dios sea como un escudo que apague las flechas encendidas que arroja el diablo. Que la salvación los proteja como un casco, y que los defienda la Palabra de Dios, que es la espada del Espíritu Santo.

No se olviden de orar. Y siempre que oren a Dios, háganlo dirigidos por el Espíritu Santo. Manténganse en estado de alerta, y no se den por vencidos. Oren siempre, pidiendo por todos los que forman parte del pueblo de Dios. Y oren también por mí; pídanle a Dios que me dé el valor de anunciar el plan que él había mantenido en secreto. El Señor me envió a anunciar ese plan, y por eso estoy preso. Pídanle a Dios que me dé el valor de anunciar sin ningún temor la buena noticia.