

THE SHIELD OF FAITH #2

EL ESCUDO DE LA FE

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Eph 6:10-18

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

*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.*

Let's review Paul's underlying presuppositions

1. WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL WAR!
¡ESTAMOS PARTE DE UNA GUERRA ESPIRITUAL!

2. WE CANNOT STAND ON OUR OWN!
¡NO PODEMOS VALER POR SÍ MISMOS!

3. GOD HAS PROVIDED PROTECTIVE ARMOR!
¡DIOS NOS HA EQUIPADO CON ARMADURA PROTECTURA!

And the piece of armor that we are focusing on for this series is

The Shield of Faith

Five points make up the shield of faith

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 have to have faith or we will not make it. Hebrews 6:11 says without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is critical to our spiritual survival.

SERMON SPICE VIDEO CLIP “Kids answer, “What is Faith?”

Faith is an action word; it is something you act on. This action is not just once when we accept Christ into our heart, Faith must be in action constantly! Listen to Paul talk about our faith in two different verses in Ephesians 1

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

13 En él también ustedes, cuando oyeron el mensaje de la verdad, el evangelio que les trajo la salvación, y lo creyeron, fueron marcados con el sello que es el Espíritu Santo prometido.

Paul is talking about coming to faith in Jesus Christ, being born again or saved. This is when you believe Christ and invite him to be your savior by repentance and faith.

Notice that believing here is in the past tense. Literally it is at a point in time. Many of us remember the time when we really believed God and invited him into our hearts.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who (continue to) believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

18 Pido también que les sean iluminados los ojos del corazón para que sepan a qué esperanza él los ha llamado, cuál es la riqueza de su gloriosa herencia entre los santos,¹⁹ y cuán incomparable es la grandeza de su poder a favor de los que creemos. Ese poder es la fuerza grandiosa y eficaz²⁰ que Dios ejerció en Cristo cuando lo resucitó de entre los muertos y lo sentó a su derecha en las regiones celestiales,

Paul is not talking about being saved again. He is talking about be strong in the Lord, experiencing his power in our lives, understanding what he wants to do. Paul says that this doesn't automatically happen because one day, somewhere in your past you believed God and invited him into your heart.

This isn't faith at a point in time in the past. It is faith continually exercised. It is in the present tense here. Not only that, but it is a present tense participle, which means it is an ongoing action.

This is such an important understanding let me give you another passage of Scripture

Hebrews/Hebreos 3:12-14

Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters.[a] Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

12 Cuidense, hermanos, de que ninguno de ustedes tenga un corazón pecaminoso e incrédulo que los haga apartarse del Dios vivo. 13 Más bien, mientras dure ese «hoy», animense unos a otros cada día, para que ninguno de ustedes se endurezca por el engaño del pecado. 14 Hemos llegado a tener parte con *Cristo, con tal que retengamos firme hasta el fin la confianza que tuvimos al principio.

A prayer of faith somewhere in the past will not give you victory over Satan today. You have to practice faith, exercise faith today or you will be defeated.

You have to raise the shield of faith today. Once again what are the five points of the shield of faith?

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!

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Today is the first point; the thumbs up of the shield of faith. I believe God...

How big is your God? *¿Cómo de grande es su Dios?*

Most American's pray to God on a regular basis. But when you listen to them talk about him, it seems that he is either pretty small, not listening, or unwilling to act.

If you are serving a small God, then you will be defeated by Satan. There are so many places to go in the Word of God to get a glimpse of just how big God is.

Psalm 104

O Lord my God, how great you are!
You are robed with honor and majesty.
You are dressed in a robe of light.
You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens;
you lay out the rafters of your home in the rain clouds.
You make the clouds your chariot;
you ride upon the wings of the wind.
The winds are your messengers;
flames of fire are your servants.[a]
You placed the world on its foundation
so it would never be moved.
You clothed the earth with floods of water,
water that covered even the mountains.
At your command, the water fled;
at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.
Mountains rose and valleys sank
to the levels you decreed.
Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,
so they would never again cover the earth.

Salmos 104

- 1 *¡Alaba, alma mía, al Señor!
Señor mi Dios, tú eres grandioso;
te has revestido de gloria y majestad.*
- 2 *Te cubres de luz como con un manto;
extiendes los cielos como un velo.*
- 3 *Afirmas sobre las aguas tus altos aposentos
y haces de las nubes tus carros de guerra.
¡Tú cabalgas en las alas del viento!*
- 4 *Haces de los vientos tus mensajeros,
y de las llamas de fuego tus servidores.*
- 5 *Tú pusiste la tierra sobre sus cimientos,
y de allí jamás se moverá;*
- 6 *la revestiste con el mar,
y las aguas se detuvieron sobre los montes.*
- 7 *Pero a tu reprensión huyeron las aguas;
ante el estruendo de tu voz se dieron a la fuga.*
- 8 *Ascendieron a los montes,
descendieron a los valles,
al lugar que tú les asignaste.*

*9 Pusiste una frontera que ellas no pueden cruzar;
¡jamás volverán a cubrir la tierra!*

The apostle Paul says in Romans chapter one that all you have to do is go outdoors and see creation and you have a great insight into God.

Some people are praying to a small God. Others are not sure if the big God they are praying to cares about them. I am not sure which is worse praying to a small God or praying to a large God who doesn't care about you, who may or may not be listening.

Follow along here

1. God has promised to bless you!

¡Dios ha prometido bendecirte!

Jeremiah/ Jeremías 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **12** In those days when you pray, I will listen. **13** If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

11 Porque yo sé muy bien los planes que tengo para ustedes —afirma el Señor—, planes de bienestar y no de calamidad, a fin de darles un futuro y una esperanza.

2. God has promised you victory!

¡Dios se ha prometido la Victoria!

Romans/ Romanos 8

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,[a] who[b] have been called according to his purpose. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors

28 Ahora bien, sabemos que Dios dispone todas las cosas para el bien de quienes lo aman, los que han sido llamados de acuerdo con su propósito.

31 ¿Qué diremos frente a esto? Si Dios está de nuestra parte, ¿quién puede estar en contra nuestra? 32 El que no escatimó ni a su propio Hijo, sino que lo entregó por todos nosotros, ¿cómo no habrá de darnos generosamente, junto con él, todas las cosas? 33 ¿Quién acusará a los que Dios ha escogido? Dios es el que justifica. 34 ¿Quién condenará? Cristo Jesús es el que murió, e incluso resucitó, y está a la derecha de Dios e intercede por nosotros. 35 ¿Quién nos apartará del amor de Cristo? ¿La tribulación, o la angustia, la persecución, el hambre, la indigencia, el peligro, o la violencia? 36 Así está escrito: «Por tu causa siempre nos llevan a la muerte; ¡nos tratan como a ovejas para el matadero!» 37 Sin embargo, en todo esto somos más que vencedores por medio de aquel que nos amó

3. God has promised us rest!

¡Dios nos ha prometido la descanso!

Read Hebrews 4:1-3

4. God has promised to answer our prayers!

¡Dios ha prometido contestar a nuestras oraciones!

John/Juan 15:7

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

7 Si permanecen en mí y mis palabras permanecen en ustedes, pidan lo que quieran, y se les concederá.

5. God has promised that you will bear fruit!

¡Dios ha prometido que darás frutos!

John/Juan 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

5 »Yo soy la vid y ustedes son las ramas. El que permanece en mí, como yo en él, dará mucho fruto; separados de mí no pueden ustedes hacer nada.

I want you to know that God's promises are for us every day, not just every now and then. He wants us to live in his blessing, not just visit from time to time. The same with victory, rest, joy, guidance, fruitfulness

Raise the Shield of Faith!

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!

How Big is your God?

COMMUNION TIME...

Communion is the remembrance of Jesus pouring out his love for us.

Do you know that Jesus is the proof that God is awesome and he cares about you.

The God who created everything, who is holding it all together is the same God who sent his Son to bear our sin. He is the same God who sends us his Holy Spirit to live in us, guide us and remind us of all things.

Communion has been set up so that whenever you want to take it, it is ready. You can walk to one of the six places and get your cup and piece of bread.

As you take communion, please ask yourself, how Big is my God, can he protect me from Satan's arrows? Will he keep his promises to Me?

Spend some time letting God fill you with a new level of faith so when it is time to lift up the shield of faith you will have something worth lifting.

Communion while DVD is playing