

WHAT IS YOUR “GO-TO” WHEN ATTACKED?

Ephesians 6:14-16

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

Q: Why a shield?

- 1) Stands between the soldier and the enemy.
- 2) Absorbs and extinguishes enemy attacks.
- 3) Allows soldiers to work together. #ShieldWall
- 4) Helps soldiers clear a path for pushing forward.

Q: What is faith?

A: Is faith contrary to reason?

- “Faith, being belief that isn’t based on evidence, is the principal vice of any religion.” – Richard Dawkins (atheist)
- “The Scriptures seem to regard faith as a stepping forward, not into darkness but into the light which God has given.” – G. W. Martin¹

Hebrews 11:6

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.

Q: Why are Satan’s attacks pictured as “flaming darts/arrows.”

A: Satan is a coward, a liar, and never fights fair.

Q: What are some of Satan’s “flaming darts?” (Satan often plants lies in our wounds).

- Doubt: “Did God actually say?” – Genesis 3:1a
- Discouragement
- Defeatism
- Fear
- Bitterness towards individuals or groups of people.

Q: How do we take up our shield of faith?

- Allow Jesus into all the compartments of your life. – Ephesians 6:16 *“in all circumstances...”*

Action points

- Be ready, but don't worry! (Matthew 6:25-33)
- Be aware, but don't be crippled by fear!
 - Satan is a schemer who'd love to divide us. Keep the Gospel of Peace at the forefront of your thinking.
 - Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*
- Be honest!
 - Where is your heart right now?
 - Are you sensing bitterness and resentment in your tone?
 - Be honest with God about where you are.
 - Ask God to bathe your emotions and mental presets in His grace.

Isaiah 40:6-8

A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Psalms 7:10

My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.

Psalms 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

¹ G.W. Martin, J.I. Packer, editor, *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 246. Faith is the confidence in God's power to sustain us in the future as He has done in the past. Because of God's revelation of Himself through creation, miracles, the truth of Scripture, prophecy, the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, as well as the witness of the Holy Spirit, *biblical faith* is a *reasonable faith* (Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:18-23; Exodus 7:5, 14:4, 7:17, 29:46; Hebrews 1:1-4; Luke 16:31; Romans 8:16).