

<sup>[14]</sup> Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>[15]</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>[16]</sup> in addition to all, **TAKING UP** the **SHIELD OF FAITH** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. <sup>[17]</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

[Ephesians 6:14-17]

Today we continue to consider six Divine prescriptions for Godly living. Today we begin by looking at the third way that **TRUSTING FAITH** can help you live a Godly life before God, which is that our **FAITH** can become a *Defensive Weapon*. We learn this in Ephesians 6:16 where we were told that we are to have ‘**TAKEN**’ “**UP** the **SHIELD OF FAITH**”! This **SHIELD** is the Greek noun θυρεός (thoorehos),<sup>1</sup> which came to refer to a **SHIELD** in the form of a large, oblong-shaped door which could act as a cover for the entrance of a cave. Here, in Ephesians 6:16, it is used symbolically of shielding like a door.

In Genesis 15:1, we learn that God to Abraham, while still named Abram,

... the **WORD** of the **LORD** came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a **SHIELD** to you; your reward will be very great.”

Then in Deuteronomy 33:29, we learn that Israel was “*Blessed*” because they were “*a people saved by the LORD*”, “*Who*” was “*the SHIELD of [their] help....*” What about you, have you ever thought about the **LORD** as being your **SHIELD OF HELP**?

Look again at Ephesians 6:16, where we are told that **IF** you ‘**TAKE**’ “**UP** the **SHIELD OF FAITH**, you will be able to extinguish all the flaming [arrows] of the evil one.” Of course, we know that this “*evil one*” is the devil, Satan.

Regarding **FAITH** as a **SHIELD**, consider 1 John 5:4-5 where we learn that,

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world, our FAITH. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but the one BELIEVING that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Also consider 1 Timothy 6:12 where Holy Spirit moved Paul to write Timothy and say to him,

*Fight the GOOD FIGHT of FAITH; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

The fourth way that **TRUSTING FAITH** helps you live a Godly life, is to realize that **FAITH** is an indispensable element in how you walk with God. Take note of what the Hebrew writer says about Enoch’s **FAITH** in Hebrews 11:5, where we learn that it was,

*By FAITH Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; “AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP”;<sup>2</sup> FOR he obtained the witness that BEFORE his being taken up he was pleasing to God.*

Please understand that it was ‘**BY**’ Enoch’s “**FAITH**” that ‘*Enoch*’ was said to be “**PLEASING TO GOD.**”

<sup>1</sup> “Shield” is the Greek noun θυρεός (thoorehos), Strong’s Greek dictionary noun number 2375.

<sup>2</sup> Sited from Gen 5:24.

The Divine prescription for Godly living!

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Next, listen to how the Holy Spirit moved the scribe who penned Hebrews to speak of FAITH in Hebrews 11:6, where we learn that,

... *WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE [Him], for it is NECESSARY for the one coming to God TO BELIEVE that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Listen to some more consequences of being “*WITHOUT FAITH*”. In Hebrews 3:12 you are warned to, *Take care, brethren, unless there should be in any one of you an evil, UNBELIEVING heart, in falling away from the living God.*

Also consider Hebrews 3:18 where it says,

*And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?*

Then we learn in Hebrews 3:19,

... *THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER (the Promised Land) BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF.*

Lord willing, please meet me here tomorrow when we will consider the last two ways that FAITH is the Divine prescription for Godly living!

Now please join me in prayer.

I now call on You O God of faith asking that you give a greater faith. You thanksgiving for teaching us Today that our faith is a shield in this battle of life. Teach us to take up the shield of faith that we may be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, the devil. I also ask that You teach us to have a faith like Enoch, that like him it can be said of us that we are pleasing to You. I now pray in faith, giving You thanksgiving and praise to You in the Holy Name of Jesus! Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things! Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE I NOW HAVE COME TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT TO BE PLEASING TO GOD,  
I MUST HAVE A STRONG TRUSTING FAITH! – tom.*