

“Armored Saint: Shields Up!”

1 John 5:4; Ephesians 6:10-18

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All Scripture quoted from NIV unless otherwise noted

The purpose of warfare is not to kill the enemy; it is to conquer them

- If our enemy can defeat and discourage and dishearten enough individuals, he can divide us and leave us feeling uncertain and afraid

There is never a time in which you do not need faith

- Apply your faith in Jesus to every circumstance
- Do your homework – understand why you believe what you believe – can you defend it, using Scriptural evidence?

Faith is not blind belief; it is a blanket of trust woven together with 1,000 strands of belief, evidence, experience, and knowledge

- Faith is trust that is based on truth

Faith doesn't mean this world cannot harm you; it means you don't need to be afraid of how this world can harm you

- Jesus said (Matt 10:28) **“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”**
 - Faith is not freedom from harm; it is freedom from fear

Shield is primarily a defensive ‘weapon’ – faith is primarily meant to defend you from attack

- Inactive faith is dead faith – TAKE UP and HOLD ON to your faith when you're under attack (Which you are, right now.)

Faith removes the teeth of the enemy's attacks

- They can still grunt and growl and make scary noises, but faith doesn't just put them on pause; faith puts them down

When those attacks come, it's not church attendance or a good reputation that helps you overcome them; it's not having enough Bible verses memorized or knowing all the words to all the songs you sang on Sunday morning – it is faith alone that overcomes!

- 1 John 5:4 – “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Spiritual attack is not personal

- Spiritual attack is against the kingdom that you are a part of
 - It’s not about you! The enemy doesn’t care who you are
 - Conversely, your King does know you. He knows the hairs on your head; He keeps your tears in a bottle; He knows you by name; One day, He will wipe away every tear from your eye

Satan doesn’t need to kill you; He just needs to idle you

- He just needs to discourage or intimidate or frustrate you enough to get you to quit moving forward in your quest for genuine spiritual truth.
- Hold onto your faith – hold it up against the flaming arrows that your enemy keeps firing your way – and then you will know victories in spiritual battle

Takeaways from this message.

- ✓ The purpose of warfare is not to KILL the enemy; it is to CONQUER them.
- ✓ There is never a time in which you do not NEED faith.
- ✓ Faith is not blind belief; it is TRUST that is based on TRUTH.
- ✓ Faith is not freedom from HARM; it is freedom from FEAR.
- ✓ Faith is primarily meant to DEFEND you from ATTACK.
- ✓ Faith removes the TEETH of the enemy’s attacks.
- ✓ Spiritual attack is against the KINGDOM that you are a part of.
- ✓ Satan doesn’t need to KILL you; he just needs to IDLE you.

DIG IN!

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning's message.

1. *What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today's passage/message? Why?*
2. **What type of situations do you find it most difficult to apply your faith to? When is it easiest? Why?**
3. **Why might it be significant that the shield is being used to represent *faith*, rather than righteousness?**
4. **Better on pizza: Pineapple or sardines?**
5. **What attacks are you facing right now that are causing you worry, fear, or anxiety? What does it look like for you to hold up the shield of faith to defend yourself against these attacks?**
6. **Read Hebrews 11. The whole chapter. Then list some ways that faith is being described. What surprises you? Why?**
7. *What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?*