

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Series – Part 4

“On the Battleground...Not the Playground”

Ephesians 6:10-20

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ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND

Part 1: Ephesians 6:10-13 – April 29, 2026

Part 2: Ephesians 6:14 – May 6, 2026

Part 3: Ephesians 6:15 – May 20, 2026

Part 4: Ephesians 6:16 – May 27, 2026

Part 5: Ephesians 6:17 – June 3, 2026

Part 6: Ephesians 6:18-20 – June 10, 2026

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BATTLEGROUND



PLAYGROUND

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Part 4
The Protective Faith

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Ephesians 6:10-20 (KJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.** 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

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Paul tells us to: “TAKE UP YOUR SHIELD”

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Ephesians 6:16 is a well-known Bible verse about spiritual warfare. It instructs believers to "take up the shield of faith" to protect themselves from the spiritual attacks (referred to as "fiery darts" or "flaming arrows") of the devil.

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The shield is the fourth piece of armor and represents the believer's active trust in God during spiritual attacks.

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Understanding the Roman Shield

The Roman “Scutum” Paul refers to the large Roman shield known as the scutum.

Let’s look at the Characteristics of the Roman Shield

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- About 4 feet tall and 2½ feet wide
 - Covered with leather
 - Could protect the entire body
- Soldiers often soaked the shield in water before battle

This becomes significant because enemy arrows were often dipped in pitch and set on fire.

The wet shield extinguished the flaming arrows upon impact.

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EPHESIANS 6:16

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

“...in all circumstances take up the shield of faith,
with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”

THE ROMAN SOLDIER'S SHIELD



PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACK

The large shield (scutum) was used to cover the entire body, guarding against enemy weapons and incoming blows.



EXTINGUISHES FLAMING DARTS

The shield was made of layers—wood, leather, and canvas—designed to quench fire and stop burning projectiles.



HELD BY FAITH

Faith is our shield. When we trust in God and His promises, we can stand firm against every attack of the enemy.



Faith in God's promises protects our hearts and minds and gives us confidence that He will see us through every battle.

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Clearly, a shield is vitally important to a soldier. It provides a blanket of protection. It is meant to be taken up in **all circumstances**. It is the first barrier against the enemy's attack. Often, shields were painted with identifying marks; a Christian who takes up the shield of faith identifies himself as a foot soldier who serves the Commander of the Lord's army (see Joshua 5:14).

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Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Verse 6 stresses the importance of faith: “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Satan’s attacks can sometimes cause us to doubt God. Faith prompts us to believe God.

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We give in to temptation when we believe what it has to offer is better than what God has promised. Faith reminds us that, though fulfillment of God's promise may not be readily visible to us, God is true to His Word. When Satan attempts to plague us with doubt or entice us with instant gratification, faith recognizes the deceptiveness of his tactics and quickly extinguishes the arrows. When Satan accuses us, faith chooses to believe that Jesus has redeemed us and that there is no more condemnation (Romans 8:1, 34; Revelation 12:10–12).

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Faith is one of the greatest gifts (1 Corinthians 13:13), and it is the means by which we receive grace and come into right relationship with God (Ephesians 2:8–9). It is because we have been justified through faith that we belong to God and have peace with Him (Romans 5:1).

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Faith is the doorway to hope in God (Romans 5:2). Because we have faith in God, our suffering need not faze us; in fact, we can persevere under it (Romans 5:3–5). The things Satan attempts to use to discourage us can actually become tools in the hands of God.

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All believers have this promise: “Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. When we believe God and take Him at His word, we remain grounded in truth, the lies of the enemy lose their power, and we become overcomers. In that way, faith is our shield.

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What Is the Shield of Faith?

Faith here is not merely saving faith for conversion.

It is

- Ongoing trust in God
- Confidence in God's Word
- Dependence upon God's promises
- Assurance in God's character

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Biblical faith says:

“God is true even when circumstances are difficult.”

“God is faithful even when I cannot see the outcome.”

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“Above All” — The Priority of Faith

Paul says, “Above all.”

This does not necessarily mean the shield is more important than the other armor pieces, but it emphasizes its necessity in battle.

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Faith works with every other piece of armor:

- Truth strengthens faith
- Righteousness supports faith
 - Peace stabilizes faith
- Salvation encourages faith
- The Word of God directs faith

Without faith, the believer becomes vulnerable.

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The Fiery Darts of the Wicked

What Are Fiery Darts?

The enemy launches spiritual attacks against the mind, heart, and emotions.

An arrow is a deadly weapon used in warfare since ancient times. Arrows were forcibly thrown or projected at a target but were not self-propelled. The original Greek word (belē) used in Ephesians 6:16 could be translated as “arrow,” “dart,” “javelin,” “spear,” or “missile.”

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These darts may include

- **Doubt**
- **Fear**
- **Discouragement**
- **Temptation**
- **Anxiety**
- **Condemnation**
- **False doctrine**
- **Bitterness**
- **Worry**
- **Spiritual intimidation**

Satan attacks believers strategically.

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How Faith Extinguishes the Darts

Faith does not prevent attacks from coming.

Faith prevents attacks from destroying the believer.

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Faith Extinguishes Fear

When fear comes, faith declares

“God has not given us the spirit of fear.”

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Faith Extinguishes Doubt

Faith trusts God's promises over feelings.

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Faith Extinguishes Temptation

Faith believes obedience is better than sin.

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Faith Extinguishes Discouragement

Faith remembers God's past faithfulness.

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Biblical Examples of the Shield of Faith

David Facing Goliath

David trusted God instead of fearing the giant.

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel trusted God despite danger.

The Three Hebrew Boys

They believed God could deliver them from the fire.

Jesus in the Wilderness

Jesus Christ resisted Satan with confidence in the Word of God.

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References:

The Bible, King James Version

<https://www.gotquestions.org/>

Questions?