

Pastor Steve Siefkes
July 4, 2010

Ephesians 6:16
Shield of Faith

Introduction: Part of the armor that God lovingly provides is an impregnable shield of faith. You must utilize it every day in nearly every situation in which He places you.

A. Historical

1. Roman soldier's shield
 - a. *Scutum*, 2 -2 1/2 feet wide, 4-6 feet in length, about 20 lbs, curved
 - b. Often made of wood, leather, and copper
 - c. Uses
 1. Protect from ambush
 2. Provide psychological advantage
 3. Soaked in water to protect from flaming arrows
 4. Offensively used as a ram
 5. Soldiers could interlock shields to form a *testudo* tortoise formation
2. Shields in the Word
 - a. Picture of God's protection, Gen. 15:1
 - b. Used by God's enemies, I Sam. 17:45
 - c. Used by God's people, II Chron. 17:17
 - d. Shield of faith, Eph 6:16, only shield in NT

B Take up

1. GK.
 - a. Aorist - Once
 - b. Active – Subject produces the action
 - c. Participle – Having done
2. GK., NT, 353 “take up”

C. Shield of Faith

1. Shield
 - a. GK., NT, 2375 “door shaped shield”
 - b. Large enough to protect
2. Faith
 - a. GK., NT, 4102 “persuasion, conviction, faith”
 - b. Idea of absolute reliance upon Christ for salvation, I Jn. 5:13
 - c. Faith
 1. Necessary to please Him, Heb. 11:6
 2. Required for life, Habakkuk 2:4 cf. Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38
 3. Comes from the Word, Rom. 10:17

D. Will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one

1. Will be able, GK., NT, 1410 “to be able”
2. To extinguish, GK., NT, 4570 “put out, extinguish”
3. All, GK., NT 3956 “all, every, the whole”
4. Flaming missiles, GK., NT, 4442 “ignited” & 956 “missile, spear, arrow”
5. The evil one, definite article, “the” GK., NT 4190 hurtful, evil”

Conclusion: The battle is waging don't forget your shield of faith, I Jn. 5:4.

Roman *Testudo*



One of the provocative aspects in the exploitation of the Roman shields was their use in a combination which was called the *testudo* ("tortoise") formation. Twenty-seven soldiers would combine together: six in front and seven in each of three rows.

The ones on the outside edge would interlock their shields vertically; the insiders would form a roof with theirs. The composite was virtually impregnable as a sort of walking tank. They would test their skills in training by driving chariots over it. (Missler)