

Stand in the Evil Day pt5

The Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:10-18

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 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, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Introduction

The last few weeks have given us a vivid picture of one of the most pervasive problems facing the evangelical church. It has proven to be one of the most destructive and debilitating diseases permeating through body of Christ.

It is the lack of discernment.

Sinclair Ferguson

May 08, 2020

It is the ability to make discriminating judgments, to distinguish between, and recognize the moral implications of, different situations and courses of action. It includes the ability to “weigh up” and assess the moral and spiritual status of individuals, groups, and even movements....

Most of us doubtless want to distance ourselves from what might be regarded as “the lunatic fringe” of contemporary Christianity. We are on our guard against being led astray by false teachers. But there is more to discernment than this. True discernment means not only distinguishing the right from the wrong; it means distinguishing the primary from the secondary, the essential from the indifferent, and the permanent from the transient. And, yes, it means

distinguishing between the good and the better, and even between the better and the best.

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/discernment-thinking-gods-thoughts/>

Although I would agree with the definition of Discernment, I would take issue with one statement and would change one word.

“We are on our guard against being led astray by false teachers.”

I would say “Some are on guard” not “we are on guard”

Because, frankly, most are not on guard, and this is the number one problem facing the church today. NO discernment.

Men and women who have been in the church for years do not have the basic ability to discern truth from error.

And even the greater skill that Charles Spurgeon referred to as discernment being

“Knowing the difference between true and almost true”

It used to be that the bizarre and heretical views of of the pentecostal and charismatic teachers were kept to the back corners of the book stores.

But no more.... if there is a book store, they are kept in there front and are the best sellers, and all if

any of the doctrinally sound books are keep in the back of the store.

Now with Youtube and internet, the most bizarre teachings can be put forth as evangelical doctrine.

There are hundreds of false teachers and charlatans on line saying that God told them this and God told them that, and they have 1000s of followers. Some have 150, to 200 thousand subscribers

Kenneth Copeland nearly 300 thousand subscribers

Joyce Myers 520 thousand subscribers

Sid Roths Its Supernatural 1.26 million subscribers

John MacArther Grace to you 455 thousand

Ligonier Ministries 257 thousand

Covenant Baptist

1 Thessalonians 5:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ **Test** all things; hold fast what is good.

²² Abstain from every form of evil.

Test— Pres. A. Imperative

dokimazo: I put to the test, prove, examine

Original Word: δοκιμάζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dokimazo

Phonetic Spelling: (dok-im-ad'-zo)

Definition: to test, by implication to approve

Usage: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, approve after testing; I am fit.

Cognate: 1381 dokimázō (from 1384 /dókimos, "approved") – properly, to try (test) to show something is acceptable (real, approved); put to the test to reveal what is good (genuine). See 1384 (dokimos).

1381 /dokimázō ("to approve by testing") is done to demonstrate what is good, i.e. passes the necessary test. 1381 (dokimázō) does not focus on disproving something (i.e. to show it is bad).

²¹ **Test** all things; hold fast what is **good**

good

kalos: beautiful, good

Original Word: καλός, ή, όν

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: kalos

Phonetic Spelling: (kal-os')

Definition: beautiful, good

Usage: beautiful, as an outward sign of the inward good, noble, honorable character; good, worthy, honorable, noble, and seen to be so.

2570 kalós – attractively good; good that inspires (motivates) others to embrace what is lovely (beautiful, praiseworthy); i.e. well done so as to be winsome (appealing)

22 **Abstain** from every **form** of evil

form

eidos: visible form, shape, appearance, kind

Original Word: εἶδος, ους, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: eidos

Phonetic Spelling: (i'-dos)

Definition: appearance, fashion, shape, sight

Usage: visible form, shape, appearance, outward show, kind, species, class.

1491 eídos (a neuter noun derived from 1492 /eídō, "to see, apprehend") – properly, the sight (i.e. of something exposed, observable), especially its outward appearance or shape (J. Thayer). 1491 (eídos) emphasizes "what is physically

seen" (BAGD) before mentally or spiritually apprehended. [See 1492](#) (eidō, oida).

Abstain — Pres Mid Imperative

apechó: to hold back, keep off, to be away, be distant

Original Word: ἀπέχω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: apechó

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-ekh'-o)

Definition: to hold back, keep off, to be away, be distant

Usage: I have in full, am far, it is enough.

568 apéxō (from [575](#) /apó, "away from" and [2192](#) /éxō, "have") – properly, to have one thing by separating from (letting go of) another.

[568](#) /apéxō ("to have by separating from") includes what is gained by discarding something else (cf. Phm15). In each case, [568](#) /apéxō ("relate from") retains its root-meaning, "to have something, because far away from something else" (J. Thayer). [568/apexō ("have from") has two foci: away from (the source); to then have what is separated from that source.]

Acts 17:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

1 John 4:1 (NKJV)

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Revelation 2:2 (NKJV)

2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

As I told you before, much of what Paul is referring to when he refers to the schemes of the devil or the wiles of the devil are ideologies, philosophies, world views that have become cunning vehicles of error. The surrounded by

truth enough that the many believers are susceptible to these cunningly devise fables of the devil.

This is not a time for slothfulness in the Word of God. We need to rid ourselves of weak pulpits and replace them with men of courage and skill in the Word to equip the people of God.

We need Generals, captains, and lieutenants and in some case drill sergeants to get the church in shape. Men who are well equipped and motivated to give the Word well enough to give discernment to the people. To enable them to have the Belt of Truth, practical Righteous, clarity of the gospel of Peace and Trust in God and the Sword the Spirit driving us to our knees in prayer for God's protection

Lesson:

The Exhortation

The Explanation

The Equipment

I. The Exhortation

10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord and in the **power** of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God,

10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong** (**pres Imperative**) in the Lord and in the power of His might.

How to do this is explained in the next verses. We are to Put on the Whole Armor of God and that we may be able to stand.

11 **Put** (**Aorist Imp.**) **on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

13 Therefore **take up** (**Aorist Imp.,**) **the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I. The Exhortation

II. The Explanation

There are 3 reasons to have the whole armor on to be able to stand

1. The Age
2. The Activity
3. The Adversaries

1. The Age

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

2 Timothy 3:1–8 (NKJV)

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 Peter 3:3 (NKJV)

³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2. The Activity

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

3. The Adversaries

¹² **For** we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of

this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- I. The Exhortation
- II. The Explanation
- III. The Equipment

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ **Stand** therefore, **having girded** your waist with truth,

Stand

Aorist Imperative. 2nd person Plural

histémi: to make to stand, to stand

Original Word: ἵστημι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: histémi

Phonetic Spelling: (his'-tay-mee)

Definition: to make to stand, to stand

Usage: trans: (a) I make to stand, place, set up, establish, appoint; mid: I place myself, stand, (b) I set in balance, weigh; intrans: (c) I stand, stand by, stand still; met: I stand ready, stand firm, am steadfast.

Our responsibility is to **resist** and **stand firm**. When Martin Luther stood before the Diet of Worms he was accused of heresy. After being condemned for declaring that men are saved by faith alone in Christ alone, he declared, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.... Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.” Every believer who is faithful to God’s Word cannot do otherwise than **stand firm**.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 343). Chicago: Moody Press.

14 **Stand** therefore

oun: therefore, then, (and) so

Original Word: οὐν

Part of Speech: Conjunction

Transliteration: oun

Phonetic Spelling: (oon)

Definition: therefore, then, (and) so

Usage: therefore, then.

3767 ούν (a conjunction) – therefore, now then, accordingly so. 3767 (ούν) occurs 526 times in the NT and is typically translated "therefore" which means, "By extension, here's how the dots connect."

The rest of the text is filled with how and with what we are to stand.

The Participles (verbal/adjectives) they speak of action and description.

The four participles which follow the imperative ‘stand’, namely, ‘*having fastened the belt of truth*’, ‘*having put on the breastplate of righteousness*’ (v. 14), ‘*having fitted your feet*’ (v. 15), and ‘*having taken up the shield of faith*’ (v. 16), spell out the actions believers need to have taken if they are to stand firm. Given the context, these participles could also be taken as having an implied imperatival force.

O'Brien, P. T. (1999). [The letter to the Ephesians](#) (p. 473). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Paul is telling us to stand, and to stand firm, but when doing so, make sure you have this equipment. Or another way of saying it is you can't stand unless you have this equipment.

First piece of Armor is TRUTH

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,

_____ στητε ουν περιζωσαμενοι την
οσφυν υμων εν αληθεια

Instrumental case with truth
αληθεια

This can be summed up with 2 words

1. **Objective Truth**= contained in the Bible,
doctrine

2. **Subjective Truth**= Moral truth- Truthfulness,
integrity. No hypocrisy, genuine.

Now to the second piece of armor.

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

The Third Piece of Armor

¹⁵ and **having shod** your feet with the **preparation** of the gospel of peace;

The Fourth Piece of Armor

¹⁶ above all, taking the **shield** of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

¹⁶ above all,
ἐν πᾶσιν NAS ESV NIV
ἐπὶ πᾶσιν KJV

16. **Above all** (ἐπὶ πᾶσιν). Ambiguous. It may mean *over all*, or *in addition to all*. The latter is correct. Rev., *withal*.

Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 3, p. 409). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Though a number of commentaries state that this is hard to be sure as to what Paul is meaning.

I don't think it is that difficult. If we just take in a more literal translation,

IN ALL THING or IN EVERYTHING

Take the shield of Faith.

I think that Paul has in mind the overarching and all consuming nature of faith in this.

First, you are saved by faith or through faith.

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

we live by faith.

Romans 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

Second, and we please God by Faith.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and

that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Romans 14:23 (NKJV)

for whatever *is* not from faith is sin.

Faith is essential or the truth doesn't matter, if you don't believe it.

Faith is essential to practical Righteousness. We must believe and trust Gods way is the Right way. Faith is essential to have Peace with God Through Salvation.

Faith is essential to have the future hope of salvation
Faith is essential to have word of God as a sword and weapon.

Faith is essential fo Prayer and supplication to God

shield

thureos: a shield

Original Word: θυρεός, οὐ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: thureos

Phonetic Spelling: (thoo-reh-os')

Definition: a shield

Usage: the heavy oblong Roman shield.

2375 thyreós – properly, a gate or door (or "door-shaped"); used of the large, oblong ancient Roman shield (which looked like a full door), large enough to provide full protection from attack (used only in Eph 6:16).

from

thura: a door

Original Word: θύρα, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Phonetic Spelling: (thoo'-rah)

Usage: (a) a door, (b) met: an opportunity.

Roman soldiers used several kinds of shields, but two were the most common. The first was a rather small round shield, perhaps two feet in diameter, that was secured to the arm by two leather straps. It was relatively lightweight and was used to parry the sword blows of one's opponent in hand-to-hand fighting.

The second kind was the *thureos*, to which Paul refers here. This **shield** was about two and half feet wide and four and a half feet high, designed to protect the entire body of the soldier—who was considerably smaller than the average man today. The **shield** was made of a solid piece of wood and was covered with metal or heavy oiled leather.

The soldiers who carried these shields were in the front lines of battle, and normally stood side by side with their shields together, forming a huge phalanx extending as long as a mile or more. The archers stood behind this protective wall of shields and shot their arrows as they advanced against the enemy. Anyone who stood or crouched behind such shields was protected from the barrage of enemy arrows and spears.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (pp. 357–358). Chicago: Moody Press.

What faith is Paul referring to

1. The Faith= the body of christians beliefs objective
2. The Faith= believing and trusting God. subjective

1. The Faith= the body of christians beliefs objective

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Jude 3 (NKJV)

³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

I don't believe that is it because of the redundancy.
 He already referred to the Truth in the Belt of Truth.
 A defensive Weapon.
 And he will talk of the Word of God i.e. Truth as an
 Offensive weapon.

And just knowing truth is not a defense, necessarily.

You can know the truth and not be saved.

James 2:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will

declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Just know truth won’t help. You have have many degrees from the best of seminaries, and know a lot of truth, but if you do not believe and trust the God who gave you the truth and trust and believe the truth that he gave, it is not a defensive weapon.

The **faith** to which Paul refers here is not the body of Christian beliefs (for which the term is used in 4:13), but basic trust in God—the faith in Christ that appropriates salvation and continues to bring blessing and strength as it trusts Him for daily provision and help. The substance of Christianity is believing that God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6); putting total trust in His Son as the crucified, buried, risen, and ascended Savior; obeying Scripture as His infallible and authoritative Word; and looking forward to the Lord’s coming again. Habakkuk’s great declaration that “the righteous will live by his faith” (Hab. 2:4) is quoted and reaffirmed twice by Paul (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11) and once by the writer of Hebrews (10:38).

Every person lives by some form of faith. We cross a bridge with the faith that it will support us. We eat

food trusting that it is not poisoned. We put our lives in the security of airplanes, trains, ships, buses, and automobiles, confident that they are safe. The fact that faith in such things is usually well founded makes life and society as we know it possible. Reflecting on this fact in a more philosophical manner, Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “It is faith in something that makes life worth living.”

But **faith** in God is immeasurably more reliable and more important than the practical, everyday faith by which we live. And it is far from being simply “faith in something.” Faith is only as reliable and helpful as the trustworthiness of its object; and Christian **faith** is powerful and effective because the object of faith, Jesus Christ, is infinitely powerful and absolutely dependable. Christian faith never fails, because the One in whom that faith is placed never fails.

When John Paton was translating the Bible for a South Seas island tribe, he discovered that they had no word for trust or faith. One day a native who had been running hard came into the missionary’s house, flopped himself in a large chair and said, “It’s good to rest my whole weight on this chair.” “That’s it,” said Paton. “I’ll translate faith as ‘resting one’s whole weight on God.’ ”

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). [Ephesians](#) (p. 358). Chicago: Moody Press.

In New Testament times the tips of arrows would often be wrapped in pieces of cloth that had been soaked in pitch. Just before the arrow was shot, the tip would be lighted and the **flaming missile** would be shot at the enemy troops. The pitch burned fiercely, and on impact it would spatter burning bits for several feet, igniting anything flammable it touched. In addition to piercing their bodies, it could inflict serious burns on enemy soldiers and destroy their clothing and gear. The most reliable protection against such **flaming missiles** was the *thureos shield*, whose covering of metal or leather soaked in water would either deflect or **extinguish** them.

Since the Defensive weapon against the attack is Faith and trust in God,

Then we can assume that the flaming missiles or arrows are attacks against your trust in the character, purposes and will of God.

The spiritual **flaming missiles** against which believers need protection would seem primarily to be temptations.

1. To not trust Gods character,
2. To not believe in his purposes
3. To not trust the will of God for you

Let me explain what I mean.

1. To not trust Gods character,

You may be tempted to not trust God's character of Faithfulness and Righteousness in the forgiveness of sin.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You may be tempted to not have faith that God's grace is big enough to cover all your sin....but the scripture says

Romans 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ ...But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more

You could be tempted to believe that God is not Sovereignly in control when you face the very hard times of life, the death of a spouse, the diagnosis of cancer. The unexpected event that changes the course of your life.

But Scripture says.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

1. To not trust Gods character,

2. To not believe in his purposes

We see all the evil in the world and the rise of ungodly leaders. We are witness to the corruption in our politics in the USA more that ever. We see the escalation of persecution of the church world wide. We see the destruction and attack on marriage and the family. We notice that there is more a more of a treat the the security of my family and my Job. We have been praying and hoping for the Return of Christ and the establishment of Righteousness and Justice and yet we wait.

We might be tempted to not trust in the purposes of God.

Ephesians 1:8–11 (NKJV)

⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

2 Timothy 1:7–12 (NKJV)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and

brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹² For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

2 Timothy 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

2 Peter 3:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any

should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1. To not trust Gods character,
2. To not believe in his purposes
3. To not trust the will of God for you

You may be tempted to question the will of God for you right now regarding marriage. You haven't found that special someone or they have not found you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

1 Corinthians 7:9 (NKJV)

⁹ but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

Or perhaps you're tempted to doubt if you married the right person, or how do I live with my spouse who is an unbeliever

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Peter 3:1–2 (NKJV)

3 Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.

Or perhaps you are tempted to worry about you job, your finances, your health or your children.

Worry and anxiety are the opposite of faith.

Yet God says

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:31–33 (NKJV)

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

These fiery darts come at us all the time. We are constantly faced with the temptation to sin in our doubts, our fears, our anxieties, our impatience. Our willingness to seek happiness and satisfaction thru sin. Or our willingness to not to trust the Sovereign purposes of the plan and will of God for our life.

All these fiery darts of temptations can be quenched by full trust in God and His word.

Satan continually bombards God’s children with temptations to immorality, hatred, envy, anger,

covetousness, pride, doubt, fear, despair, distrust, and every other sin.

Satan's initial temptation to Adam and Eve was to entice them to doubt God and instead to put their trust in his lies. That was the first of his **flaming missiles**, from which all the others have lighted their flames. Every temptation, directly or indirectly, is the temptation to doubt and distrust God. The purpose of all of Satan's **missiles**, therefore, is to cause believers to forsake their trust in God, to drive a wedge between the Savior and the saved. He even tempted God's own Son to distrust Him in the wilderness—first to distrust His Father's provision, then to distrust His protection and His plan (Matt. 4:3–9).

Psalm 1:1–6 (NKJV)

- 1 Blessed *is* the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
- 2 But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
- 3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

- 4 The ungodly *are* not so,
But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.
- 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the
judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

The only way to **extinguish** Satan's **flaming missiles** of temptation to doubt God is to *believe* God, **taking up the shield of faith**.

Proverbs 30:5–6 (NKJV)

- 5 Every word of God *is* pure;
He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
- 6 Do not add to His words,
Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

(Ps. 18:30). David reminds us that “the word of the Lord is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him”

(1 John 5:4)

“This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith”

The evil one (or “vile, wretched one,” *ponēros*) refers to the devil, whose supernaturally evil schemes we are to stand firm against and “to resist in the evil day” with the armor God supplies (vv. 11–13). Paul here again emphasizes that our struggle is against *personal* forces of evil—not simply against bad philosophies or wrong ideas, as liberal theologians and preachers have long maintained. Our battle is not against abstract evil influences but the personal **evil one** and his hordes of personal demons.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). [Ephesians](#) (pp. 358–360). Chicago: Moody Press.