

Armed with the Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:16

Halifax: 30 November 2008

Introduction:

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is very rich...

- It begins with Paul describing the riches of God's grace that He pours all over His people when He redeems them...
 - The riches of fallen world cannot even begin to compare with these riches!
 - The Lord has given us forgiveness through Christ's blood, He has adopted us into His own family, and has raised us up from spiritual death to live in sweet communion with Him forever and ever.
 - Paul prays and yearns for the Ephesians to realise how great these blessings are!
- And then in chapter 4, he begins to speak about the new way we are to live now that Christ has redeemed us...
 - It is a beautiful life.
 - We are to do away with all that is sinful and corrupt and to live in full accordance with God's calling... in holiness and righteousness and wisdom...
 - Christ is renewing this new life in us to make us like Himself—a perfect likeness of our heavenly Father—His very image
 - to love as He loves, to walk as He walks, to be holy as He is holy.
 - Paul lays out this new life before us and shows how it is to affect every part of us.
- And then when you get to Ephesians 6:10,
 - he calls us to be strong in the Lord on account of our enemies.
 - Satan and all his allies are very unhappy when they see a sinner redeemed and beginning to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus.
 - He and all his muster all their strength to oppose us and to bring us down...
 - We must face them with the whole armour of God so that we can stand in the evil day when their attack comes in all its might.

I have explained that this armour is not something you put on when the attack has begun...

- You are to see that you have it on now and you are to see that you keep it on so that you will be prepared beforehand.
- Each week, we have been looking at one piece of this armour...

- So far we have seen that we are to have:
 - the belt of truth which is sincerity...
 - the breastplate of righteousness which is a blameless walk...
 - and the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace: the good news that God is reconciled—you are to keep this as central as you go on—to encourage you and to keep you from slipping.

This week, we come to a piece of armour that Paul says we are to take “above all.”

- It is called the shield of faith.
 - You can see it mentioned in verse 16.
 - He says that with this shield of faith, we will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

In preaching about this piece of armour, I want to more or less follow the format I have used for the first three pieces...

- First I will show you what this shield of faith is...
- Secondly, I will show you how this shield is to be used to quench Satan’s fiery darts...
- And thirdly, we will look at how to strengthen and maintain your shield.

I. What is this shield of faith?

A. First, let me speak about the imagery that is used.

1. Paul compares faith to the shield that was used by the Roman soldier...
 - a. The shield described here is of the large rectangular sort—about four feet high by two and a half feet wide.
 - It was usually rounded a bit, and often covered with leather,
 - in part so that it would not become inflamed when fiery darts stuck into it...
 - and in part so that it would better absorb the shock of the blows that it would receive.
 - b. It was strapped to the left arm so that the sword could be held in the warrior’s right hand.
 - The shield would be positioned wherever the attack was coming from to protect the combatant.
2. Besides this shield, Paul mentions the fiery darts that were used in those days.
 - a. These were often made of tow, and then dipped in pitch or some other flammable material and set on fire.

- They would blaze all the more as they were propelled through the air.
- b. Of course the shield would offer protection from these flaming missiles to prevent them from striking the soldier himself...
 - It is also possible that he would actually use his shield to deliberately catch the darts (which being ablaze were as visible as a ball being thrown) so as to prevent them from setting his ship or his camp on fire.
 - Whatever the case, a fiery dart is certainly a good image for the nature of temptation that can ignite passion, despair, or terror within believers or within a group of believers.

TRANS> Okay then, having looked at the imagery, let us now consider this word faith...

B. To what does Paul speak when he speaks of faith?

1. First consider what faith is in a very generic way—
 - a. It is confidence in a person or a thing.
 - For example,
 - If a woman has a husband who is selecting a house in the city they are about to move to,
 - People might say to her, “Aren’t you afraid to let him choose a house that you have not even seen?”
 - And she might say,
 - “No, I have faith in my husband. I think he will make a good decision.”
 - Sometimes, faith is just an assurance that things will work out okay...
 - A sick person might say,
 - “I have faith that I will get better.”

TRANS> In either case, there is a certain amount of confidence.

- b. Many people who do not acknowledge God have nothing beyond themselves or other people to trust in...
 - 1) Some are paralysed by a lack of faith.
 - They are cynical and see no reason to even try or expect anything.
 - Such a person has an ability to do a lot more, but for want of faith, never moves on.
 - 2) Others go to the opposite extreme.

- They launch out with reckless confidence, way overestimating their abilities or that of others.
 - Like the chap that takes on a new job that is way over his head, assuming all the while that he can handle it...
 - and even after he is let go, assuming that his abilities have not been properly recognised.
- 3) Of course most people are somewhere in between these two extremes of doubt verses over confidence...
- As Aristotle would put it, they have neither the defect (doubt) or the excess (over-confidence), but the mean...
 - As people would say today, they have a healthy sense of self-esteem.
 - And it is true that such persons usually do get along better in this world.

2. But Biblical faith brings a whole different perspective!

- a. Biblical faith involves “seeing Him who is invisible” as it says in Hebrews 11:27.
- It brings God into your purview...
 - You come to believe and accept the fact that:
 - “He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - This is what it says in Hebrews 11:6.
- b. You come to accept the reality of the true God and this changes the way you look at everything!
- 1) Now you recognise needs that you never admitted before—serious needs!
- a) You realise that food, clothing, health, safety...
- even your next breath—
 - all come from God.
 - That without Him, you would not even exist.

TRANS> But that is not all...

- b) When you see God, you also come to realise that you have need of forgiveness for your sin—a desperate need to be reconciled to God...
- You see in death and in God’s curse upon this world that God is displeased with us...
 - And you read in His Word that the whole world is guilty before Him.

- And you are not surprised, because as you come to understand holy law and nature, you realise that you are a transgressor.
 - You see that you are in great need of mercy and forgiveness...
 - And that without it, you will be condemned...
- c) And you also realise that you need to be changed...
- You realise that you are not able to extricate yourself from sin...
 - You come short of His calling in both your heart and your actions and are in desperate need of deliverance.
 - You need the Lord to circumcise your heart to love Him.

TRANS> In short, you become just what Jesus spoke about in the first four Beatitudes...

- poor in Spirit—seeing that you are spiritually impoverished...
- one who mourns—seeing the wretchedness of your condition...
- one who is meek—ready to relinquish autonomy to be governed by the Lord...
- one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness—realising that you don't have it, yet wanting it!
- But it is not only your needs that you come to see when you believe that God is—when you have faith...

2) You also come to recognise the resources that are now available to you from the Lord...

- a) You see that He is the rewarder of those that seek Him...
- You see Him as the one who fills the poor in Spirit,
 - who comforts those that mourn,
 - who gives the earth to the meek,
 - and who fills those who hunger and thirst for righteousness with righteousness!
- b) You see that in the Lord, you have marvellous resources such as you never even imagined!
- That even though you now see your need like never before...
 - You also have provision—help and grace—like never before!
 - You see that in Jesus Christ, you are promised everything you need for life and godliness!

c) And so you trust in Him!

- That is, you put your faith in Him!
 - No longer are you shut up only to your own resources or the resources of other people around you...
 - Now you have faith in the One who made you!
 - the one who transcends all things as the self-existing One!
 - the one who has sent Jesus Christ to bless all those who come to Him!
- c. Oh my friends, this is reality!
- It is a lie and falsehood to deny the God who made you... to try to make a life without Him...
 - To put your trust in yourself or in other men is a great folly that will bring you to complete ruin.
 - But to believe in God...
 - To accept your desperate need before Him...
 - And to rise up with faith that trusts in Him for life...
 - that is to break out of falsehood and come to the light of truth!
 - That is where your faith belongs!
 - Not in yourself,
 - but in the Lord of Glory who rewards those that seek Him.

TRANS> But faith in the Lord is not always what it should be.

C. There are two ways that faith can be defective.

1. First, faith is defective when it is weak.

- a. Such a faith does not believe that God is able or willing to do what He has promised.
 - Do you remember what Israel did when they came to the Promised Land?
 - They sent the spies in to look at the situation...
 - And they concluded that it would be impossible for them to defeat the Canaanites.
 - And I say,
 - Of course it was impossible—for them to do it—just as it was impossible for them to deliver themselves from Egypt!
 - But God had promised!
 - That was the whole point!

- God was going to enable them to do what would have been impossible for them to do on their own.
- Their problem was that they did not believe God!

b. This defective faith is a very common thing!

1) There are those who hear the call of God—for example the things we looked at in Ephesians 4:1-6:9—

- That we are live in unity with each other,
 - that we are to put away rotten words and speak words of encouragement...
 - that we are to replace bitterness with love...
 - that wives are to submit to their husbands and that husbands are to love their wives and give themselves for them...
 - all that...
- They look at this and they say,
 - “It’s impossible to live like that!”
- And they never go on to say,
 - “But I will trust in God who has promised to work in those who seek Him.”

2) Then there are those who doubt God’s forgiveness...

- They confess their sin, but they do not believe that the work of Christ is quite enough...
 - They feel there is something that they must add to His work...
 - some do this in a formal way, as in the Catholic church...
 - some just carry the guilt around and sort of punish themselves with it for a while and don’t ever rejoice in the complete cleansing that Christ offers.

TRANS> Those are serious expressions of doubt... but of course it reaches into many other areas as well...

3) It happens in affliction when you do not trust that God is working what is good through your troubles...

- When you do not see that He has sent it with a wise purpose that He is working out in you...and in His people as a whole...
- Instead of trusting in Him, you despair...

- 4) Or in witness—instead of simply following the Lord, you start to measure and calculate what you think will work best...
 - I don't mean that you are wrestling with how you can be a more effective witness from the scripture...
 - but I mean, that you begin to alter the message to try to make it more appealing...
 - You change the message to make it more attractive to unbelievers.

- 5) Doubt is also common in those who do not wait on the Lord...
 - Isaiah says that faith does not make haste—
 - It continues to do what God has commanded and waits for God to do what He has promised.

 - Abraham and Sarah doubted God's promise to give them a son because of their old age...
 - And they decided to use Hagar as a surrogate mother!
 - Their faith was weak when they did that.
 - They did not wait for God to do what He had promised but tried to take matters into their own hands.

 - This is what singles do when they are lonely, and instead of entrusting that to the Lord while continuing to look for a godly spouse,
 - They rush into a relationship with someone who is not biblically qualified.
 - This often leads to much sorrow.

TRANS> Many more examples could be given...

- but you see that doubt is a defect of faith...

2. Second, faith is defective when it is presumptuous.

a. I mean, when you think of faith as a blank cheque...

- Believing that God has unlimited resources (which He does)
 - you wrong assume that He had made all those resources available to you so that you can claim whatever you want!

- No, no, that is not the right sort of faith...
 - Proper faith is word-based...
 - By that, I mean that:

b. Proper faith lays hold of what God has promised.

1) For example,

- In the day of Isaiah, God promised Israel that the Assyrians would come all the way up to Jerusalem, but never enter it...
 - They would conquer all the other cities around, but once they got to Jerusalem, God would stop them.
 - And so it was when the Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem with a great army that humanly speaking left Jerusalem without a chance,
 - Hezekiah and the people trusted God and 185,000 men fell dead in the night by the hand of the Lord.
- But then in Jeremiah's day, God told the people that Jerusalem **would** fall to the Babylonians...
 - They did not want to believe this.
 - So they acted as if God had promised to preserve Jerusalem.
 - False prophets went around and said that Jerusalem would never fall.
 - That was presumptuous...
 - They acted as if He had promised to do something that He had not promised to do.
 - They were believing God in a wrong way.
 - Of course the city fell.

2) You have to be careful about this sort of presumption...

a) For example, if you have a parent that you are praying for...

- you can pray earnestly for their salvation,
 - but you cannot pray as if that persons salvation is promised.
 - You do not have such a promise.

b) Or if you are sick—you can pray for healing, but you cannot claim a promise of healing in this life.

- God has not given you such a promise and it will harm your faith if you pretend that He has...
- But what you can pray for is that God will work in the sickness to make you more like Christ...
 - He has promised to do that in your sufferings and you are to

seek and not doubt what He has promised.

TRANS> So you see that presumptuous faith is defective faith because it claims things that God has not promised...

- but that is not all...
 - Presumptuous faith also expects to obtain what God has promised without fulfilling the conditions to which the promise was made...
- c. Proper faith lays hold of what He has promised **in the way** that He has promised it...
 - 1) For example, it will do you no good to believe that God will have mercy on you and forgive your sins...
 - if you presume that He will do it apart from repentance and faith in Jesus Christ!
 - There are a lot of people that look for that...
 - They look for mercy from God even though they do not look to Christ crucified...
 - 2) Likewise, there is God's promise to parents concerning their children...
 - Yes, He has promised to be God to us and to our children,
 - but only if we keep His covenant and train our children up in His covenant.
 - The promise is forfeited if we do not seek the promise as it is promised...
 - It is for you as a parent not only to seek grace in the life your child,
 - but grace in your own life so that you can parent them according to God's calling.
 - 3) And consider how this principle applies to God's promise I mentioned before to work good in you through affliction...
 - a) I mentioned before that if you are sick, you do not have a promise that God will remove the sickness in this life,
 - You should not have faith in that...
 - But you do have a promise that God will use the sickness to draw you closer to Him to make you more like Christ....
 - b) But you cannot claim that promise except in the way that God promises it...
 - And He does not promise to work in you if you give yourself over to grumbling and complaining—

- if you do not seek to become more Christ through the affliction...
- if you do not look to Him in earnest prayer.
 - The affliction may rather cause you to harden your heart and grow bitter toward God.
 - King Asa did not prosper in His sickness because He did not seek the Lord.

TRANS> So in all this, I hope you can see what the faith is that you are to have as armour.

- It is not faith in yourself...
 - It is faith in God...
- It is not defective faith that either doubts or presumes...
 - It is faith in God according to His promises.

II. Now I want you to consider how faith is a shield to you in the spiritual battle.

A. First, let me say something about these darts that Satan throws at you.

1. Many people believe that Satan can inject suggestions into your mind—doubts and suggestions and temptations and such things...
 - We are told, for example, that Satan put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray the Lord.
 - But Judas was an unbeliever.
 - I do not find any evidence in scripture that Satan is able to inject such things into a believer's heart...
 - James says that we are tempted when we are draw away by our own desires and enticed. (James 1:14).
2. This leads me to believe that Satan's darts come from without...
 - a. He sends darts at us that he hopes will make us catch fire within...
 - He sends a seductress to ignite our sinful passions...
 - Of He sends affliction that he hopes will cause despair to kindle in us—despair of serving God...
 - or He sends persecutions and threats to kindle fear in us so that we will turn from God's way...
 - b. The temptation comes from without...
 - The sinful passions, thoughts of despair, and fears arise from within.

- They rise up when Satan's dart meets the corruption that remains in us...
- c. Indeed, even if Satan is able to inject thoughts into the minds of believers,
 - He is not able make us sin.
 - He is only able to present the opportunity to us.
 - Really, you don't have to know just how he brings temptation...
 - What you must do is see that you do not give way to it so that sinful passions are ignited, that despair is kindled, or that fear is inflamed.

TRANS> The shield of faith is your protection against all the darts that can fire up these sins in you...

- I want to show you how the shield of faith helps with each one—sinful desires, despair, and fear...

B. The shield of faith enables you to see Him who is invisible.

- That is a quote from Hebrews 11:27.
 - It does not mean that you see an apparition of God or something, but it means that you see the reality of God and of His promises...
 - You see,
 - our problem in this fallen world is that God, who is the very source of all that is real,
 - is not so real to us.
 - And faith is the grace that God works in us that causes us to see Him and to be brought into the reality of Him.

1. So how does the shield of faith protect you from temptation to lust?

- a. When the seductress shows up on your computer screen and invites you to come for a little visit...
 - or when you hear about someone going to the Bahamas and your heart starts to burn with covetous desire and envy for something that God has not appointed for you...
 - How does faith help to keep those lusts from flaring up in you?
- b. It causes you to see Him who is invisible!
 - You realise that God is there when that seductress appears...
 - And you realise that if you are to follow your sinful passions,
 - you will do it right before God's face!

- That ought to put a greater restraint on you than if your wife or your one of the elders was looking over your shoulder!
- You not only realise that God is there, when you have faith,
 - but you also realise what God is like...
 - You believe that He is holy and hates sin...
 - You believe that He sees into your very heart...
 - You believe that He loves you and has gone to great lengths to save you and that He is working in you to make you like His Son.
- My friend, it is right about this time that you can either throw down your shield or raise it to protect you...
 - The only way you can invite that lust in and entertain it is by casting away the shield of faith—
 - casting away what you believe about God and pretending that it is not so!
 - If the shield is there, the dart will be quenched,
 - but if you cast it away,
 - you will do so to receive the dart...
 - Like the foolish young man in Proverbs—
 - you will deliberately go forth as a sheep to the slaughter.

TRANS> That is how the shield of faith will protect you from darts designed to stir up sinful passions in you...

2. How does the shield of faith protect you from thoughts of despair?
 - a. There you are as a parent and it is one of those days when it seems as though all your labour in training up your children has been wasted...
 - or there you are laden with sickness and pain that just keeps on coming at you...
 - or there you are with a spouse who is being a real disappointment to you— or maybe you don't even have a spouse and that is weighing on you...
 - or there you are with your sin—you just don't seem to be getting very far with your sanctification...
 - b. And you wonder where God is in all this!
 - And you are starting to wonder what the point is in going on...
 - Like the children of Israel, it seems like what God has called you to do is just too much for you...

- There are too many giants and too many strongholds and you just don't have the resources to go on.
- c. Get out your shield of faith!
- You cannot see God right now in your life by sight—you cannot see evidence of His hand...
 - but faith is the evidence of things not seen!
 - Faith believes that God is even though He cannot be seen and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
 - Don't throw down your shield and receive those flaming darts!
 - Go to the Lord in faith as Joshua and Caleb did—as Asa did when he fought against the Ethiopians!
 - 2 Chron 14:11: And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, *it is* nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You *are* our God; do not let man prevail against You!"
 - Nobody said that you had the strength...
 - But faith tells you that God has the strength to carry you through.
 - Faith tells you that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.
 - Faith tells you that God will provide the way of escape!
 - Get to the word of promise and believe what is true.
 - Do not embrace the lie!
 - Do not let senseless despair be kindled in you.

TRANS> And now, thirdly,

3. Let me show you how the shield of faith will protect you from fear.
- a. Persecution comes to us in all sorts of way—
- sometimes through looming threats,
 - sometimes through ridicule and scorn,
 - sometimes through torture, deprivation, and death.
 - It comes from within families,
 - from peers,
 - from employers,
 - from governments...
 - and even from church authorities.

- And the great danger for us is always that we will be more concerned about man's displeasure with us than we are about God's...
 - And that because of the fear of man,
 - we will begin to lose the edge of our testimony for Christ.
- b. But if you have the shield of faith so that you see God together with the reality of all His threats and all His promises,
- men's intimidations will not make you afraid.
 - You will see that though man may destroy the body,
 - yet only God can destroy both body and soul in Hell.
 - The promise will be real to you that God will never leave you nor forsake you,
 - and the Lord's assurance that you are blessed if you are persecuted for His sake will carry far more weight to you than the threats or mocking of puny men.
 - The eye of faith will see things in true proportion.
- c. Indeed, though many of the Old Testament saints
- Heb 11:33: "subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens" through faith,
 - there were many others who saw no earthly deliverance:
 - Heb 11:35-38: who were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.
 - God was real to them because they had faith... not because they saw...
 - They did not see His hand of deliverance, but they experienced His grace in sustaining their faith in their persecutions...
 - And faith was a shield that kept all these persecutions from making them afraid.
 - When this is the case, the victor is not the one who persecutes to the death, but the one who is persecuted.

- As John Bunyan said when he was dragged from his pulpit to the prison,
 - “It is better to be the one who is persecuted than the one who is persecuting.”
 - God was real to him because he had faith, and faith shielded him from fear.

TRANS> My brothers and sisters,

C. Surely you can see why Paul says to take this shield of faith “above all” things!

1. Those words “above all” are ambiguous...

- either meaning that you are to have this shield surrounding all the rest of the armour...
- or meaning that this shield is the most important piece of armour of all!

TRANS> I think Paul must be saying that it is the most important of all...

2. It is so very useful against the fiery darts of the wicked one!

- Satan can cast them at you incessantly,
- but if you have the shield of faith,
 - neither lust nor despair nor fear will be kindled in you.
- The shield of faith will quench every dart.

TRANS> Surely this precious shield is something you want to carry with you always!

III. So how do you strengthen and maintain this shield of faith?

A. First of all, you must be careful not to switch from faith to self-reliance!

1. Even great men like Asa have done this...

- They start out with their shield and they win many victories...
- But then pride sets in...
- Having won a battle or two, they put off their armour feeling no danger.
 - Prayer becomes more and more infrequent...
 - Pride sets in where gratitude ought to have been...

2. This is very thing that is warned about in Eph 6:14 where it says:

- Eph 6:14: Therefore take up the whole armour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- Just because you have been successful with God's armour is no reason to think you don't need His armour.
 - It is rather all the more reason to rely on it just as you did before.
- It is easy to see the folly of Asa when the Lord's prophet rebukes him for having turned to Syria when before the Lord had given him the victory.
 - The prophet says, "In this you have done foolishly," and it is easy for us to see in a short reading like this.
 - But when twenty years have gone by and pride has slowly crept in and self reliance has replaced faith, it is not so easy to discern.
 - Be wary of this!
 - You ought to be *more* dependent on the Lord as you grow older, not less!

TRANS> So the first thing to do to maintain your faith is to guard against the encroachment of self-reliance in place of faith...

B. And secondly, you need to learn God's promises...

1. Faith is nourished by promises...
 - As I told you from the outset, faith is not simply believing that things will be okay or even that the Lord will do this or that for you...
 - Faith rather is founded upon the testimony of God given to us in scripture.
2. You are to esteem His word as more precious than gold—as sweeter than honey...
 - You are to prayerfully, diligently, and eagerly attend His word, rejoicing in what He has promised,
 - and living in the faith of what He has promised, looking to Him to do what He has promised in prayer.

TRANS> So you see that to maintain your faith,

- you first need to beware that you do not substitute self-reliance for faith...
- and secondly that you need to become familiar with what God has promised...

C. Thirdly, learn to live by faith in all things...in all of life...

1. As a Christian, you know that you begin your walk with Christ by faith...
 - By definition a Christian is one who despairs of saving Himself and realises that the Son of God had to come and die on the cross for redemption to happen...

- and that the only God's Spirit can take away your stony heart and give you a heart of flesh.
 - That was how you got started in a right relationship with the Lord.
2. But you also know that when your eyes were opened to see your need of Christ for salvation,
- You came to understand that **everything** from the air you breathe to your success at work is from the Lord...
 - You came to understand that all the times you have travelled,
 - your safe conveyance was from the Lord...
 - You came to understand that the peace we enjoy in our land is not first of all the product of a wise foreign policy,
 - but is all from the mercy of the Lord.
 - And you even come to realise that whatever trials and afflictions come your way are also sent by the Lord to test you and to draw you to Him...
3. And I say, if you want to maintain your faith,
- You need to live by it in all these things...
 - You need to see the Lord in the great things and in the small things and you need to give thanks to Him as the one who directly gives them to you.
 - He is the one who safely sets the plane down on the runway when the plane lands...
 - He is the one who provides the doctors and the healing that you receive...
 - You need to make it a way of life to look to Him for all these daily things, and then when the evil day of testing comes,
 - you will be prepared to safely trust in the one you have always trusted in.
 - Polycarp, the Christian martyr had done this and so was able to say when called to deny Christ or be burned,
 - "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?"
 - If you walk by faith each day, seeing Him who is invisible and receiving all things from His hand,
 - you will be able to trust Him when Satan hurls all his fiery darts at you.

Conclusion:

- This shield of faith—it is a precious thing.
 - It is living in the reality of the God who has become your salvation.
 - It is walking with Him, seeing Him who is invisible...
 - with joy, with delight, with confidence, with gratitude...
 - When you have this shield,
 - nothing can entice you away from Him because He is with you...
 - nothing can cause you to despair because He is there to deliver you...
 - nothing can you make you afraid because He is with you to protect you