Prayer

Summary
The shield of faith is the Christian’s protection against temptation. When we believe the promises of God the enemy will not succeed in tempting us with the lie that sin is better than obedience to God. In this way, “all the flaming arrows of the evil one” - every temptation and distraction the devil may fire at us - can be extinguished and repelled.

The Word of God
“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” - Ephesians 6:16

Roman Armor in the 1st Century
The importance of the shield for the Roman soldier.

“Like a wide and long shield, the faith God has given you is more than adequate to cover every need that could ever arise in your life.” - Rick Renner

We Study the Word:

1. Read Ephesians 6:16
   A. “shield” - θυρεός - (thyreos) - a shield; a large oblong or four-cornered shield (wide and long like the door of a house) [from the Greek work for door]
   B. “faith” - πίστις - (pistis) - faith, conviction of the truth, belief in God and His promises
   C. “extinguish” - σβέννυμι - (sbennymi) - extinguish, quench, put out
   D. “flaming arrows” - πυρόω βέλος - (pyroō belos) - flaming, fiery, ignited arrows or darts

2. Read Psalm 7:1-2, 10; Psalm 18:2, 30-36
   A. According to Psalms 7 and 18, who is the shield of God’s people? What does He do to prepare us for the battle and equip us during the battle?
   B. What insight do we gain from these words, “The Lord’s Word is flawless” in 18:30? What does this say about the connection between our shield and loinbelt of truth (Eph. 6:14a)?

“We must make certain that we are allowing the Holy Spirit to freshly anoint our lives on a daily basis as we regularly saturate our faith with the water of the Word of God.” - Rick Renner
3. Read 2 Samuel 22:29-37
   A. How do these verses reflect the truths of Psalm 18? What are the similarities? What are the odds of our winning the battle if we claim these promises of God? Do you believe this?

4. Read 1 John 5:4-5
   B. What is the verb tense in verse 4? What does that tell you about our odds of winning?
   C. What is the verb tense in verse 5? What does that tell you about our daily battles vs. evil?

Discuss in a Small Group
What are some of the fiery arrows that the evil one throws at you? How does the shield of faith help you to extinguish those flaming darts?

5. Read Colossians 2:15
   A. What does this tell you about the devil and his minions? See John 12:31. So, if you are constantly yielding to temptation where does the problem lie? What will you do about it?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13
   A. What promises does God give you in this verse? There are at least four promises. Identify.
   B. Why does Paul emphasize that the temptations we face are also faced by others? What does that suggest to you about the importance of your church family? What will you do?

Discuss in a Small Group
How can you prepare yourself before you are faced with temptation? How does faith relate?

What Are We to Do?

1. Keep your loinbelt of truth fastened.
   Ephesians 6:14a

2. Take up the shield of faith.
   Ephesians 6:16; 1 Peter 1:3-5

3. Trust the promises of God.
   The Word of God is FLAWLESS!

4. Defend yourself against the lies of the enemy.
   Take every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5) When tempted look at the deception behind it and say, “That’s a lie! I do not receive that.” Trust the promises of God.

5. Advance with your mighty shield of faith in the company of the church.
   Build a phalanx with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
Memorize This Verse:
“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.” - Psalm 28:7

Prayer

Lord, I want to put on your full armor through prayer, and I want my loved ones to be protected from evil. Teach me, through Your Word, how to pray on the armor of God for myself and for those I love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Prayer Points for Protecting Your Kids*

1. Recognize the depth of temptation that your children face every day.
2. Equip your children with the shield of faith by using the Faith 5 method daily.
3. Invite other Christian people into the circle of your family. Stand together.
4. Declare the Word of God over your kids daily.

Let us pray:

Lord, help our children to pick up the shield of faith every day. Fill them with Your Spirit that their faith may be strong and firm. Invite them with the Word of truth. Your Word promises, “You, Lord, bless the righteous one and surround him with favor like a shield.” (Psalm 5:12). Guard these children from temptation. Help them to stand strong. We claim Your promise of protection for our children today. Amen.

*Prayer Points for Yourself*

Acknowledge the following truths:

- I need the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- I need the Holy Spirit to anoint me with His living water so my faith grows strong.
- I need the Word of God every day if I am to be victorious.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, I put on the armor of God with gratitude and praise. You have provided all I need to stand in victory against Satan and his kingdom of darkness. Thank You for the shield of faith. Eagerly I lift up the shield of faith against all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Draw me into closer fellowship with You by Your Word and Spirit. Help be to resist the devil, trusting Your promise that he will flee from me as I stand in faith. You are my shield, my strong fortress and my mighty deliverer. In Jesus’ holy name. Amen.

Next Session - 7:00 p.m.
The Armor of God ~ Session 6 ~ “The Helmet of Salvation”

The world says, “Sensible people are becoming more liberated; they are removing the old rules: fall in with the times!” Wear your shield, Christian! Strap on your armor, and cry mightily unto God, that by His Spirit you may endure to the end. - Charles Spurgeon