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THE ARMOR OF GOD lesson 5— Shield of Faith

Review from previous 3 lessons:

1. There is a battle between good and evil, and I am the prize
2. What are Satan's 2 goals? (keep people out of heaven & keep people from glorifying God)
3. So, what can Satan do to the Christian? (tempt you from the outside)
4. What pieces of armor have we learned about so far that we are to "put on"?
(belt/truth-mind; breastplate/righteousness-actions; sandals/gospel-peace in Christ)

- Ok, I am going to prepare myself as I wake up to guard my mind, my actions, and with a peace of my standing with God. Now it is time to move forward. Tonight, we are going to talk about the first piece of armor that we are to "take up" instead of "put on". The first 3 were to be done before going into battle. Now, we will look at what we are to actually USE in battle.

I. What Was the Roman Soldier's Shield Like?

- A. There were 2 types of shields: one to put on your arm and one to hold to cover your BODY
*Paul refers to the second one in this passage (**Ephesians 6:14-17**).
- B. It was about the size of a small door so a person could fully HIDE behind it
- C. It was made of wood, but covered in leather and metal, then soaked in WATER.
*this would extinguish the fiery arrows from the enemy.
- D. When all the Roman soldiers put their shields TOGETHER, they could easily move through dangerous territory
-they even had 1 formation called the "tortoise" where they would make a circle covering themselves with the shields and then those in the middle shielding the top of them

II. How Does This Apply to Us?

- A. This is the first piece of armor that allows you to push through where the attack was the fiercest
*is through this that God receives the greatest victory in the battles against the devil
- B. God doesn't wish for us to REMAIN as we are by hiding what God has called us to do
 1. God has big and amazing plans for your life, something BIGGER than normal life
 2. God created you with a PURPOSE, where He receives the glory and you get to be a part of it and know that you are doing what you were made to do
 3. There is nothing more exciting than being on an ADVENTURE with God
- B. But, to experience this "adventure" with God, it takes FAITH (Hebrews 11:1 & 6)
 1. Faith is not the absence of fear, but following God despite your fear
 2. Faith is trusting and obeying where God leads without hesitation
 3. Faith says, "I don't care what they think", "I don't care if I look like a fool in their eyes"
 4. Faith can't see the end, but is so grounded on what is "out there" that it seems tangible
*this drives you to do amazing things for Christ

*Show "Faith in Kindergarten" video (www.Bluefishtv.com)

Ask Yourself: After watching this video, does your faith resemble the man who is "comfortable" with remaining the same? Do you better understand that you could be missing out on God's best?

Ask Yourself: What are areas out of my "comfort zone" that I know God is burdening my heart with?

Examples: Sharing faith, not working on Sundays/Wednesdays, passing up a relationship

*We are beyond just doing what is good or "Christian" (that is the breastplate of righteousness), we are talking about "getting our hands dirty" and doing the impossible, improbable, and the outright non-comprehensible.

*Abraham's adventure and results (many of which he never got to see)- **Hebrews 11:13**
-gave up his land and gave up his son

C. Your faith reflects what you REALLY think about God

1. Do you believe that He knows what is best?
2. Do you believe that He is in control?
3. Do you believe that following Him by faith is a reasonable response to our Savior?

D. When everyone obeys in faith together, it creates a wall moving forward the enemy can't STOP

1. it takes 1 to take the first step
2. it takes 1 to encourage the rest of the troops

Ask Yourself: What is God teaching me from this lesson and how will I respond to Him?

Take it Home: Read the challenging testimonies of faith in **Hebrews 11:1-12:2**. The best parts are toward the end, so make sure to read it all. Then, ask yourself, if these guys did so much in response to their faith, what is my excuse for doing so little?



VERSE FOR THE WEEK

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.