

Lesson: SHIELD OF FAITH

We have been studying the spiritual armor used in the spiritual warfare called the Angelic Conflict (Eph.6:10-17).

We have studied the **belt of truth** and the **breastplate of righteousness** and **feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**.

Today we will study FIVE aspects of the **fourth spiritual weapon**, the **Shield of Faith**.

1. We will outline Eph.6:16 by the following four homiletical points. *We are aware that this soldier is not FULLY ARMORED. He still has 2 more pieces of equipment (6:17).*

1st – Equipment: “**In addition to all**” (3 of 6 have already been studied and now the fourth)

2nd – Engagement: “**Taking up** (analambano/ a.a.ptc.nplm) **Shield of Faith**. Remember that this aorist ptc is connected to the main verb –“**therefore, stand firm (histemi/ a.a.impv.2pl)** in 6:14-16.

These four pieces of armor are essential for victory in spiritual warfare (*absolute truth and absolute righteousness and preparation of the gospel of peace and shield of faith*).

3rd –Embattlement: “**With which** (shield of faith) **you will be able** (dunami/ f.m.ind.2pl) **to extinguish** (sbennumi/ a.a.infin) **ALL** (*no matter how intense it gets/ Matt.4:1-11*) **the flaming** (puroo/ perf.p.ptc.apln) **missiles were used to distract and harass to drop shield of protection**.

4th –Enemy: “**of the Evil One** (satan/ Eph.6:11; 1 John 4:4; 1 Pet.5:8).”

2. You need to understand how important the Roman Shield was to the Roman victory in the combat. There were Seven different infantry formations of shields used in combat – **Our Shield of Faith**.

1 – The three-line rotation combat system of shields.

2 – Square and triangle formations with raised and interlocking of shields

3 – Two wedge formations used to break through enemy lines.

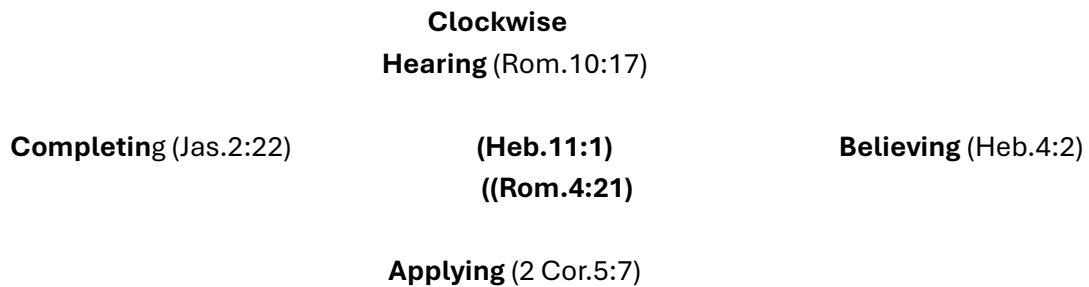
4 - Encircle and trap formations.

5 - Missile and javelins to create gaps in enemy lines.

6 – Flanking maneuver of legion formations shifting to right or left to attack vulnerable areas.

7 – As well as a stretcher for removing wounded or dead.

3. The soldier of Jesus Christ also has a manual of four maneuvers with the Shield of Faith. We call it the **faith cycle**.



4. The Faith Cycle is important to **all six stages of GRACE** in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

SALVATION GRACE (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; John 10:28-30)

LOGICAL GRACE TO CWL (Phil.4:6-7, 19; 2 Cor.9:8-12; Jas.1:2-4; **Deut.29:5-6/ divine discipline/ Jonah/ Heb.12:5-13/; Parenting of Father/ Luke 12:22-32/ birds, lilies, grass**)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GRACE (2 Cor.3:18; Heb.5:13-14; 1 Cor.3:6-8; Matt.13;19)

SPIRITUAL SUFFERING GRACE (1 Pet.4:12-14; Phil.3:10; 2 Cor.12:9-10; 2Tim.1:8)

SPIRITUAL DYING GRACE (2 Cor.5:6-10; Phil.1:20-21; 2 Tim.4:7-8)

ETERNAL SURPASSING GRACE (Rom.8:18; 2 Pet.1:11-15; 2 Cor.12:2-7; Eph.2:4-7)

5. The shield of faith is the only piece of armor that has a **promise attached** to it – **“With which you will be able to extinguish ALL the flaming missiles of the Evil One.”**

***Flaming missiles** were used to intimidate and harass and get the soldier to drop his shield (FAITH/ Matt.4:1-11; Matt. 16:21-23).*

- **1 John 4:4**
- **James 4:6-7**
- **1 Peter 5:8-10**

The Shield of Faith was primarily a defensive weapon used to get the enemy into a position for offensive victory with the **SWORD** (Eph.6:17/ next week).