

Armour of God

Faith: The Armour of God: "Suit up"

Ephesians 6: 16 "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;" Paul is saying the spiritual substance of faith has an inbuilt ability to shield a follower of Christ in this world. The Roman soldier was equipped by the Roman government with armour, sword, and shield to assist them in their job of advancing the cause of Rome, or defending it from all enemies.

We also have been given spiritual substances; armour, sword, and shield for us to protect and advance our cause, the cause of Christ in the earth.

Faith is defined and described in **Hebrews 11: 1** "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The word "assurance" could also be translated as "title deed". I.e. "the ownership papers" of things that come from the unseen spiritual realm. The "conviction, evidence, substance" of things that are real.

Hebrew 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

It would not be an exaggeration at all to say that faith is very important in the life of a follower of Jesus. It is the "bridge" between this world and Heaven. It is how we stay connected; the bridge by which the stored up provisions of God make their way into our lives and into this world.

Shields: Both protection and also weapon: Able to protect the entire soldier.

1. **Faith is powerful:** **1 John 5: 4** "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." There is an inbuilt element to our faith that empowers us to conquer, overcome and causes us to be victorious over sin, self and Satan.
2. **Faith is a provider:** **1 Peter 1:8-9** "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." Faith connects you to God, and its this connection of our faith in Christ, that obtains for us, i.e. is the capital that is used to secure for us our salvation for all eternity.
3. **Faith is practiced:** **2 Peter 1:5-7** "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love." Faith can be measured **Romans 12:3** and it can also be enhanced and grown.
4. **Faith is purposeful:** **Galatians 5: 5-6** "For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."
1 Corinthians 13: 2b "and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." The purpose of faith is to connect us to God's amazing love. Faith is a substance!
5. **Faith is a producer:** **James 2: 17** "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (**Vs. 14-26**) James is making it clear that faith produces corresponding works that give evidence of one's faith. **Mark 11:22-25 Vs. 22-23** "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.'" **Matthew 17:20** "Faith like a grain of a mustard seed." Faith is vital, and connects us to our Lord and Saviour!

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