

5—Keeping the Faith

7/24/22

INTRO:

I. → **Ephesians 6:13-17**

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

→ 14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*

→ 16 *In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

II. Large, door-like shield, covers everything else

Grk (*en pasin*) above all

III. What are the flaming arrows?

BODY:

I. **Arrows of Doubt**

A. Faith gives us power to trust God with the outcome.

1) **Genesis 15:1,6**

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." . . . Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

2) **DAD SHOWING ME HOW TO DIE LIKE A CHRISTIAN**

B. Faith keeps us from taking matters into our own hands.

1) **Hebrews 11:1-2**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

2) **STARTING A CAMPING PROGRAM FROM SCRATCH**

II. Arrows of Despair

A. Faith allows us to run in when everyone else is running out.

1) **Isaiah 7:9**

*"The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son.
If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all."*

2) **ENGINE 54**

B. When life overwhelms you, start with the little things.

1) **Luke 16:10**

"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much." (NASU)

2) **LOSING THE FEELING IN MY ARMS**

III. Arrows of Discouragement

A. Faith carries us when hopelessness grips our heart.

1) **Habakkuk 2:4**

*"See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness."*

2) **BAND OF BROTHERS—SUPPOSED TO BE SURROUNDED**

B. Faith keeps us going even when we want to give up.

1) **1 Corinthians 10:13**

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

2) **THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY OUT**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

2 Samuel 22:36-37

36 You make your saving help my shield;
your help has made me great.

37 You provide a broad path for my feet,
so that my ankles do not give way.

Psalms 18:2

2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Psalms 56:3-4

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise—
in God I trust and am not afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.