

The Shield Of Faith

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked” (Eph. 6:16).

Armored Solutions, Inc. of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, supplies ballistic entry shields for law enforcement and government agencies worldwide. The shields are made in three sizes, the largest being 2 feet in width and 3 feet in length. All of the shields are manufactured of lightweight composite fibers and include view ports which offer optimum clarity. For night usage, an optional rechargeable halogen light can be added to the products.

The “shield” (Gr. *thureon*) mentioned in our text was made out of a large piece of wood measuring approximately 2½ feet by 4½ feet. While there were metal adornments here and there, the plank was usually covered with cloth and leather. The shield basically served as a barrier. Using his sword to fight his opponent, the Roman soldier would elevate the shield to protect himself from the attack of the enemy.

Although it is not the first or last reference to a shield in the Bible, perhaps the shield of Goliath is the most famous. It was of such large proportion, “the man that bare the shield went before him” (1 Sam. 17:41). The Psalmist spoke often of the Lord as his “shield” (see Psa. 3:3; 28:7, etc.), and in one text added, “His truth shall be thy shield” (Psa. 91:4). In the text before us, the Christian soldiers’ shield is called “the shield of faith.”

Faith is set forth as a shield of distinction! The words “Above all” do not necessarily indicate that the shield is the most important piece of armor, but they do stress its importance in connection with the other pieces of armor. The blessedness of truth, righteousness, the gospel, deliverance and the work of the Spirit cannot be separated from the authority of faith. All spiritual progress involves this overcoming principle.

Faith is set forth as a shield of defense! As the Roman shield was used defensively in the scene of battle, so faith protects us as we combat the forces of hell. The saints of old realized this to be true and “through faith . . . Quenched the violence of fire,” and “escaped the edge of the sword” in (Heb. 11:33, 34). The same wall of defense is ours to enjoy! We are not just to stand against the enemy; we are to trust the Lord as we stand.

Faith is set forth as a shield of deliverance! The Romans not only used their shields to protect their bodies but also to deflect and to extinguish the fiery tipped arrows of their opponents. From a spiritual perspective, the war is raging, and the enemy is shooting burning accusations. According to the divine record, however, faith “is the victory that overcometh the world” (1 John 5:4). In that light, may we take our stand and go forward in faith.