



# Take Up Your Shield!

Ephesians 6:16



# 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;





# Three Lies Regarding God

1. God is non-existent.





# Three Lies Regarding God

1. God is non-existent.
2. God is just a big, celestial kill-joy.





# Three Lies Regarding God


1. God is non-existent.
2. God is just a big, celestial kill-joy.
3. God is nothing more than a cosmic vending machine.





## Colossians 1:21-23

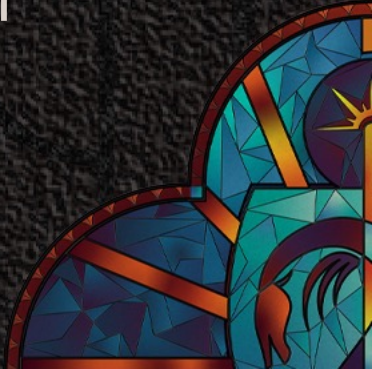
And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.





## Luke 1:1-4

Since many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting to me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in an orderly sequence, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.



“If you know yourself, you should know you will never stay the course, all of your life. There will be times, spiritually speaking, in which you will lose your mind, and you will never make it home, unless there are some people around you whom you have authorized, deputized, to share control of your life.”

Timothy Keller  
(1950-2023)





## 2 Timothy 4:7


I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.





## 1 John 5:4-5

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?





# Faith Is The Victory!


1. Faith in Jesus' identity the Son of God





## Exodus 34:6-7

“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”





# The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.





# The Apostles' Creed

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty.


From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.






# The Apostles' Creed


I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the [true Christian] church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.





## Jude 3b, 20


... I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. . . . building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,








# Faith Is The Victory!

1. Faith in Jesus' identity the Son of God
  2. Faith in Christ through believing his word.
- 



## Romans 10:17


So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.





## Deuteronomy 32:47


“For it is no empty [or idle] word for you,  
but your very life.”






## Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.






# Faith Is The Victory!

1. Faith in Jesus' identity the Son of God
  2. Faith in Christ through believing his word
  3. Faith in the gospel
- 




## Romans 16:25

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages...





# Faith Is The Victory!

1. Faith in Jesus' identity the Son of God
  2. Faith in Christ through believing his word
  3. Faith in the gospel
  4. Faith in Christian apologetics
- 



Jude 1:22

Have mercy on those who doubt.








## Psalm 18:2

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





# Genesis 15:1

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”






# 1 Samuel 17:45-47

“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.

And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand.”






# 1 Samuel 17:45-47

“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the NAME of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.


And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand.”






# 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;





# Why Flaming Arrows Were Seldom Used

- They weren't as lethal, being less bacterial
  - They were shot more slowly, to not put out the flame
  - Flying slower, they were less likely to pierce armor
  - The cloth wrapping made them less aerodynamic
  - Being bright, they were easier to block or dodge
  - They required precious time and care to prepare
  - The arrow, being wood, could also burn and break
- 



# Increasing Christian Persecution

2020 – 265 million

2024 – 365 million





# Increasing Christian Persecution

2020 – 265 million

2024 – 365 million

One believer is killed for their faith every 2 hours.

(~5,000 Christians per year)


*Open Door US*








# Global Christian Persecution in 2024

- 3,906 Christians abducted
  - 4,125 arrested, detained without trial, or imprisoned
  - 3,200 raped, or forced to marry non-Christians
  - 42,849 physically or mentally abused
  - 300,000 forced to leave their homes, and go into hiding
- 




# 1 Timothy 6:12


Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.





# Final Questions on Your Shield of Faith

- Are you holding up your shield or is it on the ground?
  - Are you gripping your shield like it's your very life?
  - Are you regularly soaking your shield in God's Word?
  - Are you building up and strengthening your shield?
  - Is your shield closely locked-in with the shields of others?
- 



“Trusting even when it appears you have been forsaken; praying when it seems your words are simply entering a vast expanse where no one hears and no voice answers; believing that God’s love is complete and that He is aware of your circumstances, even when your world seems to grind on as if setting its own direction and not caring for life or moving one inch in response to your petitions; desiring only what God’s hands have planned for you; waiting patiently while seemingly starving to death, with your only fear being that your faith might fail – this is the victory that has overcome the world. This is genuine faith indeed!”

- William MacDonald

