

**“Equipped For The Fight, Part 3”**  
**Ephesians 6:16-17**  
**Sermon Series: “The Fight Of Your Life”**

**Introduction:** On October 27, 1861, C. H. Spurgeon preached a sermon on the shield of faith from Ephesians 6:16. He introduced his text with these words: “Like the Spartans, every Christian is born a warrior. It is his destiny to be assaulted; it is his duty to attack. Part of his life will be occupied with defensive warfare. He will have to defend earnestly the faith once delivered to the saints, he will have to resist the devil, he will have to stand against all his wiles; and having done all, still to stand.”

**Main Idea: We are equipped to fight our spiritual enemy by putting on the armor of God. We are told to put on salvation and faith.**

**1. We equip ourselves for the fight by putting on the security of salvation.**

Borgman and Ventura write, “A good helmet is an invaluable piece of equipment. Properly worn, it protects the head, a most vulnerable and vital part of our bodies. Soldiers in the thick of battle certainly need one, for without it any blow to the head would be debilitating, if not fatal. Commentators tell us that the helmets worn in ancient warfare were either leather or metal and were designed to protect soldiers’ heads from blows by swords or clubs. The helmets included “plates to protect the cheeks, a band for the forehead, and a collar-like projection to protect the back of the neck.”

**How does salvation guard our minds in spiritual warfare?**

**-Romans 8:28-39**

**-Election, Justification, Sanctification, Glorification**

**Practical Results:**

- A. God is for us (v. 31)**
- B. He will freely give us all things (v. 32)**
- C. No charge against us will stick (v. 33)**
- D. There is no condemnation for us (v. 34)**
- E. Jesus is praying for us (v. 34)**
- F. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (v. 35, 38-39)**
- G. We are more than conquerors in Christ (v. 37)**

**2. We equip ourselves for the fight by putting on faith.**

Bergman and Ventura write, “If we are to be fully equipped warriors of Christ, we need more spiritual armor, including this fourth indispensable piece. The apostle seems to draw his imagery for the shield of faith from the shield the Roman infantry used for protection in battle. Unlike the lightweight, small, round buckler shield the cavalymen carried, this large, heavy, rectangular shield covered the warrior’s entire body. Scholars tell us that this fireproof, metal-

lined shield was “door like,” measuring around four to six feet in length and two to three feet in width. A soldier crouching behind it in battle would be completely protected from flaming arrows. Calling forth this imagery, Paul compares faith to a protective shield. *As the shield protected a soldier in combat, so also faith spiritually protects us in every situation from whatever the devil might launch at us.*”

In one of the most helpful things I’ve ever read about faith, Tony Evans writes, “So what is faith? The simple, most direct definition I can give you for faith is that faith is acting as if God is telling the truth. Another way of saying it is that faith is acting as if something is so even when it appears not to be so in order that it might be shown to be so simply because God said so. Faith is directly tied to an action done in response to a revealed truth.

Faith is acting on the truth whether I feel the truth or not. It’s acting on the truth whether I like the truth or not. It’s also acting on the truth whether I agree with the truth or not. Simply put, *faith is a function of the mind that shows up in the feet.*

When we allow our faith to be defined by our feelings, we will be confused. Faith must have an objective standard by which it is defined—truth. In fact, when faith operates by an objective standard of truth, it will eventually dictate our emotions rather than the reverse. Oftentimes, what is required on our part is taking a step, making the move, doing the thing that God has asked us to do without the accompanying emotions to go along with it.”

Evans goes on to say, “I want to point out that faith does not make God move. All faith does is access what God has already done. If you think that faith makes God move, you are going to be searching for a way to get more faith. However, as a Christian, you already have all of the faith you’re ever going to need to access anything God is going to do for you. Jesus said that faith the size of a mustard seed could move a tree or a mountain (Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6).

You don’t need more faith. You need to know more truth. This is because *faith is the point of access, not the source of power.* The power is in what God has already declared and done in grace when He deposited the seed of His divine life within you. As the knowledge and presence of God nourishes that seed, it expands and grows, offering you access to all God has in store for you. All faith is doing is drawing on the grace that God has already put on deposit.”

Beyond this, as we talk about faith, we are referring to faith in the senses of :

**A. Saving Faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).**

**B. Living Faith (Habakkuk 2:4, Colossians 2:6).** Make application to people’s everyday lives

**C. Faith To Overcome In Spiritual Warfare.**

Bergman and Ventura write, “In addition, in this context of Ephesians, *faith* communicates the idea of belief in God’s power and His promises to do all that He said He would do in order to keep us safe from enemy assaults (Eph. 6:10-13). Peter O’Brien points out that believers lay ‘hold of God’s resources, especially his power, in the midst of the evil one’s attack’ and appropriate ‘the promises of God on our behalf, confident that he will protect us in the midst of the battle’.”