

The Armor of God

On Fire – Day 22

1. In day 1, you ended your lesson by pinpointing areas of your life in which you sense God asking you to step out in faith with confidence in His ability. To see you through. If you've felt distracted from and hesitant about moving forward, circle any of the following categories of reasons that apply to you:
 - Insecurity fear doubt temptation anxiety/worry about "what ifs" sudden increase of other stressful life circumstances discouragement/questioning your abilities guilt hopelessness hateful thoughts about other people other
2. Thinking of the particular struggle you circled, how has it caused you to be distracted or sidetracked?
3. How else have you noticed the enemy creeping in and blindsiding you – perhaps in other areas of your life – while you've been preoccupied with putting out these internal fires?
4. Think back to the difficult person or circumstances you wrote down in the oval during week one of our study. What, if any, connection do you see between the step of faith God is asking you to take and that situation?
5. Read the passage in the margin and underline the statements surrounding the "shield of faith" that reveal Paul's emphasis.
6. Why do you think Paul may have gone to greater lengths to accentuate the benefits of this piece of equipment?
7. Turn to Ephesians 6, and compare verses 14-15 with 16-17. What major difference do you detect in the tone of these two sections? Write your observations below.

8. Recall a time when you sensed your confidence growing and the fiery arrows fading as you walked by faith?

9. Think back to the issue you wrote down at the end of day 1 – the clear directive you know you’re being told to follow. What is one step you can take in the direction of obedience before this week is over that will be the “proof” of your commitment?

10. Who can you employ to keep you accountable in this?

11. As you move forward in obedience, come back here to keep notes on how you sense the fiery darts of the enemy fizzling more and more each day.

12. Consider the Roman army’s turtle formation – how one soldier’s shield was designed to link to another’s – in light of Paul’s emphasis on our relationships with one another in the body of Christ. What does this say about how we should concern ourselves with building up the faith of others? And, how should active faith strengthen the broader community of Christ? See Ephesians 4:9-12 for inspiration in your discussion.

13. Hebrews 11 has long been described as the Hall of Faith. Look at each of the following people, and write down any observations you find interesting about how they utilized faith in their experience.
 - Noah (v. 7)

 - Abraham (v. 8-10)

 - Sarah (v. 11-12)

 - Moses (v. 24-26)

14. How did these actions “extinguish” anything that could have crippled them?

15. What could have been the tragic, generational effects if they'd chosen not to move forward in faith?

16. Why would this have been to the enemy's advantage?

17. Which of these people and stories do you most personally relate to? Any of them? If so, what makes their situation similar to yours?

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