

“Take your Stand”
Ephesians 6:10-17, Psalm 91:1-4
“Protected: Head to Toe”

Protected culture

Hand sanitizers, home monitoring, seat belts,
"password protected" - protective culture
Today talking about a different protection

Satan goes after anything he can in us

- **“fiery darts” – formidable weapon**
 - Without warning, distance, no anticipation, anywhere, any time, injury & fire
 - // temptation, impurity, selfishness, doubt, anger, fear, disappointment...
 - Purpose = to destroy us.

Until this point, all armour is worn, already attached
(breastplate, belt, shoes)

Vs. 16 “in addition to this” – pieces that are picked up

- Shield - only piece that describes in detail what effect it has

“Shield” - 2 words for shield in the Bible

1. Small round shield – parade/public ceremonies
2. Here, “thyrean” used = root, “door” = **Large shield** pictured here - battleshield
 - 2 ½ foot by 4 foot door sized shield
 - 2 or more pieces of wood glued together, covered in fabric and leather/hide, bound with iron, weighing 20-40 lbs,
 - Often soaked to prevent arrows/darts flames quenched
 - **Protects** the whole body – head to toe

- Can be connected to others making a “wall” of protection
- Protects the rest of the armour too

“Shield” is a Symbol of our FAITH

- Faith is required for our protection (armour)
- Faith is required for our righteousness
Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.
- It protects us, helps us win in battle against satan, without it we are defeated.
- Not a belief system but a day to day trust in God for provision and help - choice to use it
 - = total dependence on God & willingness to do his will
 - = only our reliance on God can extinguish these flaming arrows

Illustration - John Paton was a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, south Pacific. One night hostile natives surrounded the mission station, intent on burning out the Patons and killing them. Paton and his wife prayed during that terror-filled night that God would protect them. When daylight came they were amazed to see their attackers leave. A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Christ. Remembering what had happened, Paton asked the chief what had kept him from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men with you there?" Paton knew no men were present—but the chief said he was afraid to attack because he had seen hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords circling the mission station.

God is our Shield - best security system - many places

- “I am your shield...” Abraham (Gen.15:1)
God’s covenant with Abram
- “He is your shield...” Israelites (Dt.33:29)
Moses telling tribes of God's blessing Israel
- “My shield...” praise David (2 Sam.22:3)
David’s praise after God delivered him Saul
- “A shield around me...” David (Ps.3:3, 18:2)
When fleeing from Absalom, Saul, enemies
- “A shield...those who take refuge” – Pr. 30:5
Agur speaking of God’s Word
- “Shielded by God’s power” 1 Peter 1:5
Peter to scattered believers re: reason for hope

⇒ God is our full body shield. We need to place our trust in Him. Only He protects us.

Our Need - how do we strengthen our faith in the One

1. To identify where the arrows are coming from

- 2 Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test?”
 - **Honest** @ our Christ likeness
 - Fruit bearing? – Galatians 5
 - Loving? – 1 Corinthians 13
 - Attitudes? – Beatitudes Matthew 5
 - Obedience – 10 Commandments
 - Submission? – footsteps of Jesus – 1 John 2:6
 - Heavenly or earthy? – Colossians 3:2
- = how does my life reflect the truth of God?
= helps us to understand our vulnerability

2. To understand the Faithfulness of God

Illustration - Ray P. - even when we don't see the attacks, God protects us

- **God sent his son to make it possible for us to be in relationship with Him - protection**
- **Jesus was punished for our sins so that we could be holy in God's sight - protection**
- **God established our relationship with Him that can never be broken - protected by His love**
- **Psalm 91:4 – “He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart” - Protected from any enemy**
- **God gathers us, loves us, protects us, adores us**
- **1 Corinthians 10:13 – “God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. When you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it”**
- **Too Much? Whenever we feel the attack against us, those fiery darts, remember the faithfulness of God, our shield**