

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

1. **WHY ARE WE STUDYING SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN A CLASS ON MARRIAGE/THE FAMILY?**

A. **BECAUSE** the **FIRST RECORDED ATTACK** was against **MARRIAGE** and because Satan is **STILL ATTACKING MARRIAGE/THE FAMILY!**

Genesis 3:1-7 (NASB) Now the serpent (dragon) was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And **he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, '**You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.**'" **The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

1. **WHEN** DID SATAN TEMPT EVE?

a. **DIRECTLY AFTER** ADAM AND EVE WERE HUSBAND AND WIFE... in the last TWO VERSES of Genesis 2.

2. **WHY** DID SATAN ATTACK EVE?

a. TO AFFECT ADAM and EVE'S **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** as well as THEIR **RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER** by **CHALLENGING GOD'S CREATION ORDER.**

1) **NOTE: HE TEMPTED EVE, WITH ADAM THERE.**

3. **HOW** DID SATAN ATTACK EVE?

a. By **QUESTIONING GOD'S ORDER IN MARRIAGE.**

1) "And He said to the **woman**"

b. BY **QUESTIONING GOD'S WORD.**

1) "has God said?"

2) "You surely will not die."

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

c. It **IS TRUE** that Satan “**TEMPTED**” EVE, it is **NOT TRUE** that Satan did **NOT TEMPT ADAM... ADAM WAS STANDING RIGHT THERE!**

1) “she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband **with her**, and he ate.”

4. **SATAN HAS NOT CHANGED HIS PLAN OF ATTACK... he STILL ATTACKS MARRIAGES (FAMILIES) AND GOD’S WORD!**

a. The **DIVORCE RATE** in **AMERICA** IS ABOUT **53%!**

1) For **CHRISTIANS** as well as **NON-CHRISTIANS!**

b. The **devil** is a **shrewd enemy** and he **TEMPTS GOD’S PEOPLE** by putting snares and traps in our path **TO GET OUR EYES OFF JESUS** and **ONTO OURSELVES** and **OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**.

c. **THAT IS WHY WE ARE STUDYING SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN A CLASS ON MARRIAGE:**

1) TO **UNDERSTAND** THAT Satan **ATTACKS OUR MARRIAGES IN MULTIPLE** and **DEVIIOUS WAYS**.

2) TO **MAKE US AWARE OF THE WEAPONS** at our **DISPOSAL:**

i. The **BELT** of **TRUTH**, the **BRESTPLATE** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, the **SHOES** of **PEACE**, the **SHIELD** of **FAITH**, the **HELMET** of **SALVATION**, and the **SWORD** of **THE SPIRIT**.

d. Because Satan and his forces are **SPIRITS**, our **BATTLE** is a **SPIRITUAL ONE...** and therefore our **WEAPONS MUST BE SPIRITUAL ONES**.

e. **Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the **full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm **against the schemes of the devil**. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

f. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB)** For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh**, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **We are destroying**

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

- g. **1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

5. **WHETHER YOU KNOW IT, OR NOT... WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT, OR NOT... IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN... THEN YOU, YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR MARRIAGE, AND YOUR FAMILY ARE IN A BATTLE... A SPIRITUAL BATTLE TO GET YOUR EYES OFF JESUS and ONTO YOURSELVES and YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**

2. THE SHIELD of FAITH

- A. **Ephesians 6:16 (NASB)** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- B. So far we have looked at **three** pieces of the ARMOR OF GOD that you need to WEAR ALL THE TIME.
1. The “**to be**” verb - translated “HAVING” - indicates “AT ALL TIMES.”
 - a. We are “TO HAVE” the **belt of truth**, “TO HAVE” the **breastplate of righteousness**, and “TO HAVE” the **shoes of the gospel of peace**.
 - C. The next **three** pieces of THE ARMOR OF GOD are what we are to “HAVE AT HAND”, **READY** to “TAKE UP” and **USE WHEN YOU NEED THEM**.
 1. Paul switches verbs for **the next three pieces** of the ARMOR OF GOD, telling us to “TAKE UP” the **shield of faith**, the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the spirit**.
 2. **EXAMPLE: A BASEBALL/SOFTBALL PLAYER** who “SUITS UP” in their UNIFORM for a **GAME**.
 - a. **THEY “HAVE”** their UNIFORM, **BUT** they “TAKE UP” their **BAT** and **GLOVE AS NEEDED**.
 - b. It is the **BALLPLAYERS RESPONSIBILITY** to “TAKE THEM UP” and **USE THEM AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME**.
 - D. **DISCUSS: A TYPICAL ROMAN SOLDIER’S SHIELD**

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

1. **2.5' WIDE BY 4' TALL**
2. **COVERED IN LEATHER or ANIMAL SKIN**
3. **SOILDERS** would **LINK THEIR SHIELDS TOGETHER** so that the entire army could **hide behind whatever was thrown at them** - arrows, javelins, or anything else meant to annihilate them.
4. The **SHIELD** was covered with **leather or animal skin** and **soaked in water** in order **“to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”**.

E. **WHEN** does a **CHRISTIAN NEED** to **“TAKE UP THE SHIELD of FAITH”**?

1. IN **“THE EVIL DAY”**
2. **Ephesians 6:13 (NASB)** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, **so that you will be able to resist in the evil day**, and having done everything, to stand firm.

F. **WHEN** is **“THE EVIL DAY”**?

1. The **“EVIL DAY”** is the day that **all hell breaks loose in your life...** when you are **UNDER ATTACK**.
 - a. It's when the **FINANCES ARE SO LOW**, you don't know how you are going to make it through the end of the week.
 - b. It's when **PEOPLE ATTACK YOU** without cause or for selfish motives.
 - c. It's when you've **LOST YOUR JOB**, and there is no new job in sight.
 - d. It's when you are **BREAKING DOWN EMOTIONALLY** and have **LOST YOUR PASSION FOR LIFE**.
 - e. It's when your **MARRIAGE SEEMS HOPELESS**, your **KIDS HAVE TURNED AWAY**, your **HEALTH DETERIOATES**, or your **FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK**.
 - f. It's when your **FRIEND HAS BETRAYED YOU**.
 - g. It's when you're **OVERCOME BY AN ADDICTION, IMPULSE**, or **LIFE seems to deliver any other PIERCING STAB**.

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

2. IT'S IN THIS EVIL DAY THAT YOU ESPECIALLY NEED TO BE COVERED... YOU NEED A SHIELD.

- a. You need **PROTECTION** because on **this day, THIS EVIL DAY**, you are **MOST VULNERABLE TO THE TARGETED ATTACKS OF THE DEVIL.**

G. **FAITH is CRITICAL to achieving VICTORY in SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**

1. **Galatians 2:20 (NASB)** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I **live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
2. **1 John 5:4 (NASB)** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - **our faith.**
3. **Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)** And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
4. **1 John 5:4 (NASB)** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - **our faith.**

H. The **KEY TO VICTORY** in **OVERCOMING... STRONGHOLDS, ADDICTIONS, BATTLES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**, and **MORE** is **FAITH.**

I. **WHAT IS FAITH?**

1. The simplest **DEFINITION OF FAITH** IS THAT **FAITH IS ACTING AS IF GOD IS TELLING THE TRUTH.**
 - a. **FAITH** is **DIRECTLY TIED** to an **ACTION** done in **RESPONSE TO A REVEALED TRUTH.**
 - b. The **BELT OF TRUTH** was the **FIRST** piece of **SPIRITUAL ARMOR** listed because the **OTHER PIECES OF SPIRITUAL ARMOR** are **INTERCONNECTED** with **TRUTH** in some way.
2. **If you do NOT KNOW THE TRUTH, OR if you do NOT ACT ON THE TRUTH, the **SHIELD of FAITH is IMPOTENT.**
 - a. In **ORDER TO HAVE FAITH**, you have to **KNOW AND RESPOND TO THE TRUTH** which is **GOD'S VIEWPOINT (HIS WORD)** on a matter.**

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

- J. **IF FAITH** it is **NOT ATTACHED** to **GOD'S TRUTH** WE will **NOT** be able to **ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!**
1. **IF** YOUR **FAITH** is **TIED TO YOUR FEELINGS** - that is, **IF** you have only as much faith as you **FEEL**... you may **NOT FEEL** like **ACTING** because you really **DO NOT BELIEVE** in what you **SAY** and you **FEEL**.
 2. **FAITH** is **NEVER BASED** on how much **FAITH** you **FEEL**.
 - a. **FAITH** is **ALWAYS BASED** on your **FEET**... **WHAT** you **DO** in **RESPONSE** to **WHAT YOU BELIEVE**.
 3. **FAITH** is **ACTING** on the **TRUTH** whether:
 - a. You **FEEL** the **TRUTH**, or NOT.
 - b. You **UNDERSTAND** the **TRUTH**, or NOT.
 - c. You **LIKE** the **TRUTH**, or NOT.
 - d. You **AGREE** with the **TRUTH**, or NOT.
 - e. **2 Corinthians 5:7** (NASB) for we walk by **faith, not by sight**—
 4. **FAITH** is a **FUNCTION** of the **MIND** that **SHOWS UP** in the **FEET**.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:1-7 (NASB) Now the serpent (dragon) was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And **he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"** The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, '**You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.**'"
The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the **full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB) For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh,** for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ***We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God,** and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

1 Peter 5:8 (NASB) Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

Ephesians 6:16 (NASB) in addition to all, **taking up the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:13 (NASB) Therefore, take up the full armor of God, **so that you will be able to resist in the evil day,** and having done everything, to stand firm.

Galatians 2:20 (NASB) "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1 John 5:4 (NASB) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - **our faith.**

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:6 (NASB) And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

1 John 5:4 (NASB) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - **our faith**.