

# MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

## THE SHIELD of FAITH

### 1. REVIEW

- A. THE 3 pieces of **THE ARMOR of GOD** THAT we ARE to **"HAVE" (WEAR) ALL THE TIME ARE:**
- B. **Ephesians 6:12-15 (NASB)** 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*. 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. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;**
1. The **BELT of TRUTH**
  2. The **BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS**
  3. The **SHOES of PEACE**
- C. THE 3 pieces of **THE ARMOR of GOD** THAT we ARE to **"TAKE UP" (HAVE AT HAND)** in "The Evil Day" **ARE:**
- D. **Ephesians 6:16-17 (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*. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and (take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
1. The **SHIELD of FAITH**
  2. The **HELMET of SALVATION**
  3. The **SWORD of the SPIRIT**
- E. **EXAMPLE:** During the game a **softball** or **baseball player** **MUST ALWAYS WEAR their UNIFORM... "HAVE"**
1. Wearing the uniform **HELPS PREVENT CONFUSION.**
  2. **DURING** the game, **WHILE WEARING THEIR UNIFORM**, there are times when players **"TAKE UP" a GLOVE** or a **BAT... "HAVE AT HAND"**
- F. **DISCUSS**
- G. **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.**
  2. **FAITH** is a **FUNCTION** of the **MIND** that **SHOWS UP** in the **FEET.**

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3. If we were half as educated in the WORD OF GOD as we are in the WORLD, we would be further along in living a **VICTORIOUS LIFE**.
  4. When the OBJECT of our FAITH is GODS REVEALED TRUTH (HIS WORD), even the tiniest amount can move mountains.
    - a. **NOTE: FAITH** does **NOT** move mountains... **FAITH IN WHAT GOD'S WORD HAS TO SAY ABOUT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES IS WHAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.**
  5. **We DO NOT NEED MORE FAITH...** all we need was given at **SALVATION**.
    - a. We **NEED** to **KNOW MORE TRUTH...** because **FAITH** is the **POINT of ACCESS, NOT the SOURCE of POWER.**
2. Sometimes, we **BELIEVE, OR WE ARE TEMPTED TO BELIEVE** ("did God really say?"), that we **NEED TO DO GOOD WORKS** in order to **ACCESS** what God has in store for us in His **GRACE**.
- A. **"TEMPTATION"**
1. **James 1:13-15 (NASB)** Let no one say when he is **tempted**, "I am being **tempted** by God"; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, and He Himself does not **tempt** anyone. But each one is **tempted** when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
- B. **BUT** our **WORKS** actually **EXHIBIT OUR FAITH**.
- C. They **PROVE the EXISTENCE** of our **FAITH**.
1. **WORKS DO NOT ACCESS GRACE** because once we attach **WORKS** to **GRACE**, it's **NO LONGER GRACE** because **GRACE "IS THE GIFT OF GOD"**.
    - a. **James 2:18 (NASB)** But someone may well say, "You have **faith** and I have **works**; show me your **faith without the works**, and I will show you my **faith by my works**."
    - b. **Romans 11:6 (NASB)** But if it is by **grace**, it is **no longer on the basis of works**, otherwise **grace is no longer grace**.
      - 1) **GRACE is THE FREE GIFT of GOD**
      - 2) **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)** For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**; and that **not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.
  2. **WORKS EXHIBIT FAITH**, and **FAITH ACCESSES GRACE**
3. **HEBREWS 11** is frequently referred to as the "Hall of Faith".
- A. In this chapter we read about men and women who were **APPROVED by GOD because of their FAITH**.
- B. Their **ACTIONS REVEALED their FAITH**.

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1. "By faith Abel offered..."
  2. "By faith Noah...prepared..."
  3. "By faith Abraham...obeyed..."
  4. "By faith Isaac blessed..."
  5. "By faith Rahab...welcomed..."
  6. **BY FAITH**, each one **TOOK ACTION**... reached down and **PICKED UP** the **SHIELD** instead of letting it sit leaning up against a wall.
  7. **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.
- C. To **LIVE BY FAITH** means that **FAITH** becomes our regular **WAY** of **THINKING, DOING, and BEING**.
1. **FAITH** means **MORE** than merely **ACKNOWLEDGING** that the **SHIELD IS THERE**, and that it's an effective form of protection.
    - a. **FAITH MEANS GRABBING THE SHIELD (ACTION) and USING IT (ACTION)!**
  2. The **ONLY WAY** we can **HAVE THAT KIND OF FAITH** is to **RECOGNIZE** that **FAITH is NOT A FEELING** or a **DISCUSSION**.
    - a. **FAITH IS AN ACTION** taken based on the **AUTHORITY** of Somebody who knows what He's talking about.
      - 1) **FAITH is ONLY AS VALUABLE** as the **OBJECT** to which it is **LINKED**.
        - i. **FAITH NEEDS AN OBJECT WORTHY** of it.
    - b. Our **VIEW** of **GOD** and **HIS WORD** – **HOW BIG WE BELIEVE GOD IS – WILL DETERMINE THE SIZE OF OUR FAITH**.
      - 1) **"GOD, I'VE GOT A MIGHTY BIG PROBLEM" –vs- "PROBLEM, IVE GOT A MIGHTY BIG GOD"!**
  3. **FAITH** is a **CONVICTION ABOUT THE REALITY OF WHAT WE CANNOT SEE**.
    - a. **FAITH is BELIEVING** when there is **NO EMPIRICAL (VERIFIABLE by OBSERVATION or EXPERIENCE) EVIDENCE**.
    - b. **Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)** Now **faith** is the **assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen**.
    - c. **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB)** for we **walk by faith, not by sight**—
      - 1) In other words, **IF WE CAN SEE IT WE ARE NOT EXERCISING FAITH**.
      - 2) **FAITH** is our **POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**.
      - 3) **EXAMPLE:** Duncan Holmes

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- i. He **WALKS BY FAITH** (in more ways than one) **ALL** the time!
  - 4. **EVERYONE CAN BELIEVE IN SOMETHING WE CAN SEE.**
    - a. God is talking about a **FAITH** that spots and grabs something out of the **UNSEEN** realm and brings it down into the **PHYSICAL** realm AND **USES IT IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**
    - b. **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,
  - D. If **Jesus Christ** was able to **OVERCOME ALL THE SIN** of the entire world on the **CROSS**, He can certainly **SEE US THROUGH ANY CIRCUMSTANCE** we are in right now.
    - 1. **OUR PART** is to **BELIEVE WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS** that Jesus can enable us to overcome **IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**, and to **ACT** on that **BELIEF.**
  - E. The **SHIELD OF FAITH** has been given to us to **PROTECT** us from the **DECEPTIVE PRACTICES OF THE DEVIL.**
4. **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

## SCRIPTURE

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