

STUDY NOTES FROM KAREN HOERDEL'S "SPIRITUAL ARMOR" TEACHING SERIES

The Shield of Faith Study Notes

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:16

Ephesians 6:16 "*above all*" = in addition to

This was the shield of heavy infantry; a large oblong one - 4 feet high by 2 ½ feet wide; and quite thick

The shield was large enough to cover and to protect the whole body.
{Note: God is also our rear guard (in the King James Version, "rereward")
Isaiah 52:12; 58:8}

The Roman legions would create a front wall of shields in the midst of battle. They could press their ranks close together; the outside men kept their shields on the front and flanks; those within raised theirs above the head fitted together as a roof, capable of resisting the pressure even of a body of men marching upon it. Sometimes we must pull together as an army in the battle.

The shield illustrates God's protection.
It represents the Christian's faith in Jesus Christ and is the Lord's provision for victorious Christian living.

The fiery darts represent the doubts launched at you by Satan to diminish your trust in God. Faith can be defined as taking God at His Word and believing Him for His promises without having seen visible evidence. Faith is assaulted by these fiery darts to create a credibility gap between God's Word and the way your life is working out.

These doubts often come in the form of trials, and if the doubts remain unchecked, they produce uncertainty and fear in your relationship with God - then unrest and worry; and lack of confidence in God.

Trials of your faith are allowed by God to strengthen your faith and develop a strong Christian (Christ-like) character. This testing is essential for your maturing in Christ.

Jesus is the Shield. Don't walk by feelings, nor by emotions - but by what God says in His Word.

The arrows and darts were dipped in tar or pitch, meant to explode when they hit. The shield was made of thick, soft leather and wood, often saturated with water, wherein all darts were and are able to be quenched.

The darts and arrows can be feelings, circumstances, thoughts, doubts, fears, depression; anything that will draw you away from the abundant life in Christ.

Darts will come constantly.
Darts are lies.
Judge every thought and emotion by the Word of God. Believe God.
Then take a step of faith - start meditating on what God says.
Pray.
Keep your shield up.
Put God and what you know of God in front of you.
Do these things as often as the darts come.

Shield of Faith Scripture References

Shield = from the Greek for door, entrance, gate
Shield = God
Genesis 15:1 - fear not
Deuteronomy 33:29 - thy help
II Samuel 22:3, 36 - salvation (deliverance)
Psalm 3:3
Psalm 5:12 - surround, gird, circle
Psalm 28:7; 33:20
Psalm 35:1-9; 91:4-13
Psalm 144:1-2
Proverbs 30:5
Trust = place hope and confidence in; security
Faith = firm conviction; totally rely upon; confidence in the faithfulness of God
Faith in God
Mark 11:22
John 1:12-13; 3:15-16, 18; 6:29, 35
II Corinthians 5:7
Ephesians 3:11-12, 16-21
II Timothy 1:12-14; 2:1; 3:15
Hebrews 11:1, 6 (whole chapter) 3, 13
Hebrews 12:2-3
Hebrews 13:5-6
I John 5:4-5
Darts = feelings, thoughts, circumstances that draw you away from life in Christ
I Corinthians 10:13
GOD IS FAITHFUL!
Philippians 1:6

Declaration of Faith

- * This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it!
- * Great and mighty is the Lord and greatly is He to be praised!
- * The living God is my Father and I am His child.
- * I am redeemed by the Blood of The Lamb.
- * I confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord of my life.

*I am an heir with God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ.
Therefore:

*No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper.

*The weapons I fight with are not weapons of the world. On the contrary, the weapons of my spiritual warfare through Christ have Divine Power to demolish enemy strongholds.

* I am victorious, because I walk by faith and not by sight.

* I am more than a conqueror.

* I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

* I fear not, for my God will supply all my needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

* And greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

AMEN and AMEN!