

When Arrows Fly (The Shield of Faith)

Ephesians 6:16: “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.” This is the word of The Lord. You can be seated.

Happy Father’s Day and Pray for VBS. Buck Bash Update. **Pray**

The Christian life is lived under fire. We have an enemy who is constantly shooting fiery arrows.

John Bunyan pictured this in *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. Apollyon threatens Christian and throws a flaming dart at his chest. But Christian has a shield in his hand, and with that shield he catches the dart and is spared.

Because Satan fires flaming arrows of unbelief at God’s people, we need to understand 3 things: 1. The shield we raise, 2. The arrows we face. 3. The Formation we need.

In all circumstances—shields up.

1. **The Shield We Raise – Faith lays hold of God Himself.** Armies would often light their arrows on fire to increase pain and cause panic and chaos. When wooden shields caught fire, it would cause soldiers to drop their shields in the middle of a battle.
 - The Roman Shield: (Big, Soaked, Interlocking). The shield was large—about four feet by two—made of wood and covered with tough leather. Before battle, the leather was often soaked in water so it could extinguish sizzling, incendiary arrows. The edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock shields to form a wall in front, and a roof overhead.
 - God our Shield: (Faith is laying hold of His Character and Promises)
 - I. This is not a different kind of faith from saving faith. The faith that first received Christ is the same faith that now rests in Christ, returns to Christ, and relies on Christ in battle. It is our saving faith in action in the everyday battle of life.
 - II. God Himself is our shield. When God comes to Abram in Genesis 15:1, He says, “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield.” Proverbs 30:5 says, “He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” So when Paul tells us to take up the shield of faith, he is not telling us to trust in faith as a thing. He is telling us to trust in God as our refuge.
 - Faith lays hold of the Character of God and the promises of God in every circumstance.
 - Our shield is not a thing called “faith,” but a Person—Father, Son, and Spirit—who stands between us and our enemies.
 - Notice that Paul tells us that faith in God extinguishes ALL the flaming darts. There is no arrow the enemy can send at you that faith in God does not extinguish.

God is our shield, and we are to place our trust in Him, hiding behind Him in all circumstances. He is our refuge, our shield, our protection, our hiding place. A Christian needs to know who God is so that they can stand protected against the enemy’s fiery arrows. It is also necessary that we understand the arrows that are flying toward us.

2. **The Arrows We Face: Satan Attacks with Fiery Lies** – Satan’s fiery darts are not vague spiritual spooky things. They come as accusations, temptations, fears, false teaching, and despair. Every fiery arrow Satan shoots is aimed to land, ignite, and spread fear, distrust, pain, panic, confusion, and

chaos. **Every arrow carries a message.** Every dart is a lie meant to make God look less trustworthy, sin look more satisfying, obedience seem impossible, and Christ look insufficient. So when Satan shoots arrows, we need to learn to **be shields up.** That means three things: Name the arrow. Raise the shield. Take the step. This is what it means to be shields up! (Take notes)

I. The fiery arrow of guilt and shame.

- **The arrow says** - "You are too dirty to be forgiven." Sent to ignite unbelief about the sufficiency of Christ's work and keep believers stuck in guilt. Satan's desire is to keep us from running to God so that we are kept in the bondage of our sin.
- **Name The Arrow** - This is the arrow of guilt and shame. I am being tempted to believe that Jesus' finished work is not enough for me.
- **Raise The Shield** - 2 Cor 5:17 and 21 - If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation & He took our Sin and we received His righteousness. Jesus finished the work. The shield of faith says, 'My accusation is real, but my Savior's blood is greater. Rom 8:1. Faith does not answer the arrow of guilt by saying, "I'm not that bad." Faith answers this arrow by saying, "Christ is that sufficient." The devil says, "Look at your sin." Faith says, "Look at my Savior." I said last week, for every one look at your sin, take 10 looks at your sufficient savior.
- **Take The Step** - I will not hide in shame. I will confess my sin to Christ, run to Christ, receive His cleansing, and refuse to live under condemnation Christ has already removed.

II. The fiery arrow of temptation -

- **The arrow says:** "This sin will satisfy you." It may sound like: "You deserve this." "This will make you feel better." "God is holding out on you." "Just this once." "No one will know."
- **Name The Arrow:** This is the arrow of temptation. Satan wants me to believe that sin is better than obedience, that rebellion is more satisfying than holiness, and that God's way will leave me empty.
- **Raise the Shield: Psalm 16:11** — "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore
- **Take the step:** I will call the temptation what it is, refuse to negotiate with it, flee from what feeds it, and move toward the better joy Christ promises.

iii. The fiery arrow of fear and anxiety -

- **The arrow says:** "God will not provide or show up." It may sound like: "You are on your own." "What if everything falls apart?" "You better take control." "God may help others, but He will not help you." "This diagnosis, bill, conflict, loss, or uncertainty is too much."
- **Name the arrow:** This is the arrow of fear and anxiety. Satan wants me to distrust God's care, question God's nearness, and live as though everything depends on me.
- **Raise the Shield: Isaiah 26:3** — "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." **1 Peter 5:7** — "Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." **Matthew 6:32-33** — "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." **Hebrews 13:5** — "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- **Take the step:** I will pray before I panic, entrust my need to my Father, do the next faithful thing, and refuse to live as though I am alone.

- iv. **The fiery arrow of discouragement and weariness** - **"The arrow says:** "This is too hard, impossible, and not worth obeying Jesus." It may sound like: "Nothing is changing." "You are wasting your time." "Obedience does not work." "You cannot keep going." "Your marriage, parenting, holiness, ministry, job, or faithfulness is hopeless."
- **Name the arrow:** This is the arrow of discouragement and weariness. Satan wants me to believe that obedience is pointless, God's strength is insufficient, and quitting would be easier than trusting. The enemy taunted Israel through Goliath Day after day. God's people believed the lie of the enemy that all hope was lost and that their defeat was guaranteed. Until David believed God. Your marriage, your children, your employees, coworkers, church needs you to take up the shield of faith when the enemy hurls this dart of despair at you.
 - **Raise the Shield: Galatians 6:9** — "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." **Isaiah 40:31** — "They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength." **1 Corinthians 15:58** — "Your labor is not in vain." **1 Samuel 17:47** — "The battle is the LORD's." The battle is the Lord's. My strength may be gone, but His is not.' It remembers, 'Do not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap,' and 'Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.'" (Galatians 6:9, Isaiah 40:31)
 - **Take the step:** I will not measure faithfulness only by immediate results. I will keep obeying, ask God for renewed strength, and take the next faithful step in front of me.
- iv. **The fiery arrow of false teaching and confusion** -
- **The arrow says:** **"Did God really say?"** It may sound like: "Maybe Scripture is unclear." "Maybe God's Word is outdated." "Maybe obedience is optional." "Maybe this doctrine does not really matter." "Maybe you can have Jesus without submitting to His Word." "Maybe, I know better." This arrow is dangerous because it rarely feels like rebellion at first. It often feels like sophistication, reasonableness, compassion, personal freedom.
 - **Name the arrow:** **This is the arrow of false teaching and confusion.** Satan wants me to loosen my grip on God's Word so that he can lead my heart away from God's truth.
 - **Raise the Shield: Psalm 119:105** — "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." **Romans 3:4** — "Let God be true though every one were a liar." **John 17:17** — "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." **2 Timothy 3:16-17** — "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable..."
 - **Take the step:** I will submit my thoughts, feelings, desires, and assumptions to Scripture. I will not follow a voice that contradicts God's Word, even if it sounds persuasive, compassionate, intellectual, or culturally acceptable.

When arrows fly, we do not drop our shield and panic. We name the arrow. We raise the shield. We take the step. We need on other things when arrows fly. We need the right formation for battle. Soldiers are not meant to stand alone. We raise the shield of faith together by locking shields with one another in Christ.

3. The Formation We Need: We raise our shields together. (Locking shields in our families and our church.)

- I. **Our Battle formation:** Roman soldiers interlocked their shields to protect one another; in the same way, believers are meant to "lock shields" in community, not fight alone. The

Christian life is personal, but it is not private. When your faith feels weak, you need brothers and sisters who will bring their shields near yours.

- II. **The family** – Husbands and Wives are called to lock their shields of faith together for their marriage and their children (of all ages.) Children are called to lock their shields with their parents' shields. Shields up protect a family from the enemy's fiery arrows. Shields down allow the enemy to create disaster.
- Fathers, part of your calling is to help your family recognize the arrows. Your child may be believing, "God's way will not make me happy." Your wife may be carrying the arrow, "I am alone." You may be carrying the arrow, "Everything depends on me." A faithful father helps his family raise the shield of faith.
 - Some of you feel like your faith is paper-thin and you have allowed the enemy's arrows to set the house on fire. Instead of beating yourself up, remember Jesus invites all who are weary and heavy-laden to come to Him; a bruised reed He will not break. Come to Him today and let him strengthen your faith.
 - This week, identify one fiery arrow you know Satan often uses against you. Name it and then write down two specific promises from Scripture you will hold up as a shield when that arrow flies toward you.
 - If you're a husband or a parent, pick one time this week to pray aloud as a family, specifically asking God to 'raise your shields' together. Talk about where you want to trust God more within your marriage and family. Partner together to name the arrow, raise the shield, and take the step.
- III. **The church:** The church is not a room full of isolated soldiers watching the preacher and elders fight for them. The church is a formation of believers locking shields together under the Lordship of Christ. Maturing Christians bring their shields together for the good of their brothers and sisters in Christ. What are some practical ways we can protect one another by locking our shields together?
- Actively bear one another's burdens and refuse to let anyone stand alone. Praying for one another.
 - Helping people confront lies with truth. Get close enough to people that you can hear the lies the enemy is speaking to them. Speaking Scripture into each other's lives.
 - Encouragement – Be an encourager, one who builds others up. Ask God every week before you come to church and before you enter your d-group or men's/women's ministry to show you who to encourage.
 - In your groups ask one another, 'What is one arrow you're facing right now? How can I help shield you this week?' If you're not in a group, get in one.
 - Maybe you are being attacked right now, and you know your faith is weak. Don't stand alone. Come and get under the shield of faith of a brother or sister in Christ for protection. Borrow their faith for a season and learn from them so that your faith grows and God uses your faith to help provide cover for those around you.

Come to Christ. Trust God. Lock shields with other believers. The arrows will fly. But our God is faithful. He is our shield. And faith in Him extinguishes every flaming dart of the evil one. So, in all our circumstances—shields up together!

Sermon Research: Ephesians 6:16

Text

Ephesians 6:16 reads: “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one” (Ligonier Ministries). Paul places this command inside his larger call to “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might” and to “put on the whole armor of God,” making verse 16 one element in a larger summons to stand firm in spiritual warfare (Calvin; Hodge).

Main idea

A faithful summary of the verse is this: believers must actively and continually take up faith in God and His Word, so that by trusting Christ and His promises they may withstand and extinguish Satan’s destructive assaults (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Hodge; Cole).

For preaching purposes, the verse may be framed this way: faith is not a vague religious feeling but a practical, Christ-centered reliance on God that receives the enemy’s blows without surrendering to them. (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Spurgeon).

Context in Ephesians

Precept Austin’s overview of Ephesians highlights the book’s broad movement from doctrine to duty, from the believer’s position in Christ to the believer’s practice in the world, and from spiritual wealth to spiritual walk (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”). That framework fits Ephesians 6 well, because the armor is not detached moralism but the practical outworking of the believer’s union with Christ and identity in the gospel (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Calvin).

Calvin warns against over-pressing each piece of armor with excessive ingenuity, since Paul’s chief aim is to urge the essential graces needed in the Christian life by means of a military image (Calvin). Even so, Calvin also says faith and the Word of God hold the highest rank in spiritual conflict, because “by faith we repel all the attacks of the devil, and by the word of God the enemy himself is slain” (Calvin).

Immediate flow of the armor

Verse 16 follows truth, righteousness, and gospel readiness in verses 14-15 (Calvin). Calvin treats truth as sincerity, righteousness as a holy and blameless life, and the gospel of peace as that which fits the believer to pass through the world without ruin (Calvin). In this sequence, the shield of faith should not be treated as isolated from the rest of the armor, but as one grace that works alongside the others in a complete Christian life (Calvin; Hodge).

Several expositors note that Paul shifts his imagery slightly in verse 16, moving from armor that is worn to a shield that is “taken up” as needed in the conflict (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Wolgemuth). That observation is pastorally useful: believers are not passive in this warfare, but must consciously and actively lay hold of God in the hour of temptation, accusation, fear, or discouragement (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries).

Lexical and historical background

Precept Austin explains that the word for shield is *thureos*, derived from a term meaning “door,” which helps explain why commentators often describe it as a large, door-like Roman shield rather than a small round buckler (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”). The page collects standard historical descriptions of the Roman shield as large enough to cover the whole body, often made with layers of wood and leather, and prepared to withstand incendiary missiles (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”).

Ligonier makes the same point in more concise form, stating that the shield Paul’s readers would have envisioned was not a small disc but a large, body-length shield that a Roman soldier used to shelter his entire body (Ligonier Ministries). The article also notes that soldiers would dampen such shields in order to put out flaming arrows and missiles shot from enemy lines (Ligonier Ministries).

Precept Austin cites historical and lexical sources describing how Roman soldiers could close ranks with these shields and form a virtual wall, making them nearly invulnerable to arrows, stones, and even spears (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”). This corporate dimension is worth retaining in the sermon, because the armor passage is addressed to the church and not merely to isolated individuals. (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Calvin).

Meaning of “faith”

Ligonier states that taking up the shield of faith means resting in God as protector and laying hold of Him and all His promises (Ligonier Ministries). This keeps the focus where it belongs: faith is not magical power in the believer but the means by which the believer clings to God in Christ (Ligonier Ministries).

Calvin says faith and the Word belong inseparably together because the Word is the object of faith and faith can do nothing without the Word (Calvin). This is especially helpful for sermon preparation, since it protects against treating “faith” as bare optimism, inner strength, positive thinking, or mere sincerity (Calvin).

Precept Austin, especially through the Wayne Barber material it summarizes and links, stresses that biblical faith is living trust that shows itself in obedience (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Barber). The active force of the command “taking up” is used there to press home that believers must choose to believe God, trust His goodness, obey Him in real time, and refuse the unbelief that leaves them exposed (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Barber).

The shield of faith includes at least three inseparable elements: trust in the character of God, reliance on the promises of God, and obedient submission to the will of God (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Spurgeon).

What are the flaming darts?

Calvin comments that the darts of Satan are not only sharp but fiery, and that faith does more than blunt their edge; it quenches their heat (Calvin). That language is important because it highlights not only danger but spread: satanic attacks do not merely strike, they inflame (Calvin).

Precept Austin gathers a wide range of applications from trusted evangelical commentators, identifying these darts as temptations, accusations, fears, lies, imaginations, discouragements, panic, and impulses toward sin (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”). The page notes that in ancient warfare flaming darts could create confusion and panic even when they did not pierce the body, which serves as a helpful analogy for the way Satan agitates and destabilizes believers (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”).

Ligonier ties the imagery directly to “the flaming darts of the evil one,” emphasizing that the Christian conflict is not merely psychological or social but personal and spiritual (Ligonier Ministries). Steve Cole’s lesson likewise treats Satan as a real enemy and faith in God as the essential defense against his attacks (Cole).

The evil one

The phrase “the evil one” in verse 16 refers to the devil in the context of spiritual warfare (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin). Paul’s broader description in Ephesians 6 makes clear that the church wrestles against spiritual powers and therefore needs divine armor rather than worldly techniques (Calvin; Hodge).

The tone of the passage is sober, realistic, and hopeful because the conflict is real, but God has not left His people defenseless (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

Christ-centered reading

Ligonier’s strongest pastoral contribution is that the shield of faith ultimately means resting in Christ Himself, who absorbed the blows of temptation and even demonic attack, finally emerging victorious (Ligonier Ministries). That gives the sermon an explicitly Christ-centered focus: believers overcome not by autonomous strength but by union with the crucified and risen Christ (Ligonier Ministries).

This emphasis keeps the sermon from turning into self-help with religious vocabulary (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin). Faith is effective because Christ is faithful, His Word is true, His promises are sure, and His triumph over Satan is decisive (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

Relation to the Word

Calvin is especially useful here because he insists that faith and the Word, though distinct in office, are inseparable in practice (Calvin). The Word gives faith its object, and faith receives the Word so that it becomes effectual in the soul (Calvin).

Precept Austin reinforces this line by connecting Ephesians 6:16 to Proverbs 30:5, “Every word of God is tested... He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him” (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”). faith does not float free from revelation; faith shelters under the God who speaks truthfully and cannot fail (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”).

Spurgeon’s sermon makes this even more practical by urging believers to handle the shield well through quoting God’s promises, standing on God’s truth, and refusing to trust in self (Spurgeon). This gives a helpful transition from theology to application; if faith is a shield, then believers must actually use Scripture in the hour of conflict (Spurgeon).

Assurance and perseverance

Ligonier observes that God shields His people in an ultimate sense, guarding them so that they might persevere in faith, while also shielding them daily as they look to Him for help in holiness (Ligonier Ministries). That provides a sound doctrinal balance between God's preserving grace and the believer's daily responsibility to trust Him (Ligonier Ministries).

The saints persevere because God preserves them, and the means by which He preserves them include faith, prayer, Scripture, and the whole armor of God (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin). Ephesians 6:16 therefore belongs naturally in a sermon that emphasizes both divine sovereignty and active Christian responsibility (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

Puritan and Baptist help

Spurgeon is particularly useful for homiletical richness. He says faith protects the whole man, guards the head from doctrinal error, guards the heart from love of the world, guards the arm for service, and guards the feet in daily walk (Spurgeon).

Spurgeon also says that faith receives the blows aimed at the believer, meaning that the conflict must not be avoided, but the shield must bear the strike (Spurgeon). He further warns that faith must be “all of a piece,” resting wholly on Christ and not partly on self, and that it must be handled skillfully by quoting promises and applying truth in the moment of attack (Spurgeon).

Those emphases echo classic Puritan spirituality: faith fights temptation by looking away from self, applying promises, remembering God's former mercies, and clinging to Christ in present need (Spurgeon).

Reformed theological synthesis

Calvin, Hodge, and Ligonier converge on several points that can serve as doctrinal anchors for the sermon: the Christian life is warfare; faith is essential to resisting Satan; faith operates through the Word; and the believer's safety rests in God Himself (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Hodge). Hodge's commentary is especially valuable in reinforcing the classic Protestant reading that faith is the instrument by which the believer repels the enemy's assaults (Hodge).

This consensus can be stated plainly to the church: the shield is not confidence in faith as a human act, but confidence in God through faith (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Hodge). The object of faith matters

most, which is why weak faith in a strong Christ is safer than strong confidence in self (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

Conservative evangelical help

Steve Cole's "The Essential Shield" organizes Ephesians 6:16 around the reality of an evil enemy and the necessity of faith in God as the believer's defense (Cole).

Revive Our Hearts contributes an accessible pastoral line that the shield of faith is not merely something worn but something picked up and used in the moment when circumstances press the believer (Wolgemuth). Matthew Road's devotional treatment of Ephesians 6:16-17 is shorter, but helpful for keeping the shield, helmet, and sword together in their natural literary context (Matthew Road Baptist Church).

Pastoral application categories

The research sources suggest several recurring categories of flaming darts that should be named carefully and concretely in the sermon (Precept Austin, "Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary"; Ligonier Ministries; Cole; Spurgeon).

- Accusation: Satan attacks the conscience by weaponizing guilt, but faith flees to Christ's finished work and refuses condemnation where God has justified (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Spurgeon).
- Temptation: Satan solicits the believer to immediate sin, but faith looks to God's superior promise and obeys Him instead (Precept Austin, "Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary"; Ligonier Ministries; Spurgeon).
- Fear: Satan inflames the imagination with dread about provision, suffering, rejection, or death, but faith answers with God's promises and character (Precept Austin, "Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary"; Ligonier Ministries; Spurgeon).
- Discouragement: Satan presses trials upon the believer in ways meant to produce complaint, self-pity, and despair, but faith remembers that the Lord remains a shield to those who take refuge in Him (Precept Austin, "Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary"; Ligonier Ministries).
- False teaching: Satan also strikes at the mind, and faith guards the head by fastening the soul to revealed truth rather than novelty and instability (Calvin; Spurgeon).

These applications fit both believers in suffering and believers in ordinary daily temptations (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Cole).

Corporate application

The Roman shield image naturally invites some corporate application because ancient soldiers could lock shields together for mutual protection (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”). While Paul’s language in verse 16 does not explicitly develop that point, the broader letter is addressed to a church, and the warfare passage is given to a body of believers rather than to isolated Christians (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Calvin).

The church helps one another keep the shield raised through prayer, truth-speaking, singing, mutual exhortation, and bearing burdens together (Calvin). Calvin’s discussion of prayer in the immediately following verses strengthens this point by showing that the armor passage moves naturally into persevering prayer for all the saints (Calvin).

Homiletical cautions

First, do not detach verse 16 from the larger armor passage or from the whole theology of Ephesians (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Calvin). The shield of faith is not a standalone technique but one element in a Christ-shaped, gospel-sustained life of standing firm (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

Second, do not treat faith as a mystical force or psychological confidence (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin). The approved sources repeatedly ground faith in God, Christ, the Word, and the promises of the gospel (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Spurgeon).

Third, we do not preach spiritual warfare in a way that eclipses God’s sovereignty or Christ’s finished victory (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin). The church is summoned to vigilance, but not to panic (Ligonier Ministries; Cole).

Fourth, we do not reduce the flaming darts to spectacular demonic experiences only (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Spurgeon). They apply them to ordinary

temptations, fears, accusations, discouragements, and lies that assault believers in everyday life (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Cole; Spurgeon).

Cross-references worth using

The gathered sources repeatedly connect Ephesians 6:16 with a wider network of biblical texts (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

- Genesis 15:1 – God Himself as shield (Ligonier Ministries).
- Psalm 5:12; Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 30:5 – the Lord as shield to those who trust in Him (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries).
- 1 John 5:4 – faith as the victory that overcomes the world (Calvin).
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 – resisting the devil, firm in faith (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”).
- Hebrews 11 – the life of faith under pressure (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”).
- Luke 4:1-13 – Christ resisting temptation and emerging victorious (Ligonier Ministries).

These texts help situate Ephesians 6:16 inside the Bible’s larger theology of faith, divine protection, perseverance, and spiritual conflict (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin).

Research conclusions

The shield of faith is the believer’s active reliance on God in Christ through His Word, by which Satan’s assaults are repelled and their destructive power is extinguished (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Hodge; Spurgeon). The verse provides both warning and comfort: warning, because fiery darts are real; comfort, because God has given sufficient armor (Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Cole).

The sermon will be strongest if it keeps six notes sounding together: the reality of spiritual warfare, the necessity of faith, the inseparability of faith and the Word, the centrality of Christ, the ordinary forms of satanic attack, and the believer’s call to active daily trust (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Cole; Spurgeon).

Key takeaway - In every circumstance, the church must take up faith in the living God, resting in Christ and His promises, so that the attacks of the evil one do not ignite unbelief, sin, or despair (Precept Austin, “Ephesians 6:16-17 Commentary”; Ligonier Ministries; Calvin; Spurgeon).

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