

# OUTLINE

## IN IT TO WIN IT A FIGHT TO THE FINISH

### THE SHIELD OF FAITH

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*When it comes to spiritual warfare, there's good news and bad news.*

*"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." Ephesians 6:16 NIV*

#### THE BAD NEWS

Satan, is deploying flaming arrows at you every single day.

#### THE GOOD NEWS

God has not left us weaponless.

"Will this bombardment of temptation ever stop? Will Satan's cosmic, spiritual attack every slow down?" **The answer is "NO!"**

Paul said, *"take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one."*

#### **WHAT IS FAITH?**

Faith is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and giver of eternal salvation through Christ."

*"Faith is only as reliable and helpful as the trustworthiness of its object; and Christian faith is powerful and effective because the object of faith, Jesus Christ, is infinitely powerful and absolutely dependable. Christian faith never fails, because the One in whom that faith is placed never fails."<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians*, p.358.*

The Psalmist writes,

*"Every promise of God proves true; he protects everyone who runs to him for help.  
Proverbs 30:5 (MSG)*

King David wrote,

*"What a God! His road stretches straight and smooth. Every God-direction is road-tested. Everyone who runs toward him makes it." Psalm 18:30 (MSG)*

The Apostle John wrote,

*"Every God-begotten person conquers the world's ways. The conquering power that brings the world to its knees is our faith. The person who wins out over the world's ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God." 1John 5:4 (MSG)*

*"My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world." 1John 4:4 (MSG)*

## **WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?**

Is your faith in yourself? Is your faith in your personal abilities, knowledge, and strength? Is your faith in people? Is your faith in wealth, power, and material possessions? Is your faith resting in your supposed ability to be a good person and perform good works?

God said through the prophet Jeremiah,

*"Cursed is the strong one who depends on mere humans, who thinks he can make it on muscle alone and sets God aside as dead weight. He's like a tumbleweed on the prairie, out of touch with the good earth. He lives rootless and aimless in a land where nothing grows." But blessed is the man who trusts me, God, the woman who sticks with God. They're like trees replanted in Eden, putting down roots near the rivers—Never a worry through the hottest of summers, never dropping a leaf, serene and calm through droughts, bearing fresh fruit every season." Jeremiah 17:5-8 (MSG)*

Solomon said,

*"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!" Proverbs 3:5-7 (MSG)*