

Ready

“The Shield of Faith”

Ephesians 6:10-20 – January 25, 2026

New Year’s Sermon Series

READY		
<i>Ready for Anything with the Armor of God</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Jan 4	The Belt of Truth	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 11	The Breastplate of Righteousness	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 18	The Gospel of Peace Shoes	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 25	The Shield of Faith	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 1	The Helmet of Salvation	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 8	The Sword of the Spirit	Ephesians 6:10-20

Recap

- We are living in the middle of a spiritual battle that is waging all around us in the unseen spiritual realms (Ephesians 6:12). Satan has a battle plan and tactics that he is using to try to ruin you (John 10:10). Are you aware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11)?

Satan’s Scheme	Scriptures	Armor That Counters That Scheme
Lies & Deception	John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinth 11:14	Belt of Truth
Accusation	Revelation 12:10; Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1	Breastplate of Righteousness
Division	Ephesians 4:26-29; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11	Gospel of Peace Shoes
Doubts & Discouragement	Genesis 3:1-5; John 10:10; 2 Corinth 11:3	Shield of Faith
Fear	1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18	Helmet of Salvation
Temptations	Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11	Sword of the Spirit

- In order to stand against the devil’s schemes, you must put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

Satan’s Tactic of Doubts and Discouragement

- 2 Corinthians 11:3** – *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- Four ways that Satan cast doubts in Genesis 3:1-5
 - (1) Satan questioned the accuracy of God’s Word
 - (2) Satan changed the wording of God’s Word
 - (3) Satan questioned the truthfulness of God’s Word
 - (4) Satan questioned God’s **character** – God’s goodness and wisdom: “God is trying to keep something good from you. God doesn’t know what is best for you.”
- To be clear: To doubt is human. Faith is not the absence of doubt; rather, faith is believing despite doubts. But the goal of Satan is to introduce doubts that turn into disbelief. (How “flaming arrows” worked.)

- Satan’s one main goal is to diminish God’s glory in all the earth. Satan is constantly attempting to lower God’s “approval ratings” in our hearts. Satan’s flaming darts are aimed at what you think and feel about God in your heart. He wants to entice you to **not trust God**.

The Function of a Roman Soldier’s Shield

- Defensively, a Roman soldier’s shield protected him from enemy swords, spears, arrows, and flaming darts. The flaming darts were especially dangerous because they had been dipped in tar which spread fire on impact, but the Roman shield would extinguish the flaming dart.
- Offensively, the Roman soldier would use the shield to bash, push, and stun his opponents, allowing him to create openings to jab his sword.
- But the shield was most effective when used in formation with other Roman soldiers. Comrades would interlock their shields above and around to form a nearly impenetrable shell (*testudo* – tortoise).

How to Take Up the Shield of Faith

1. Trust God’s **character**.

- You cannot trust someone whom you think is fundamentally not good and whom you think does not have your best interests in mind.
- We tend to get incorrect pictures of God from our earthly parents or authority figures. We need to unlearn those incorrect images and renew our minds to what the Bible says about God.
- Psalm 34:8** – *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!*
- Psalm 100:5** – *For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.*
- Psalm 119:68** – *You are good and do good.*
- Genesis 50:20** (NLT) – *You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.*
- Romans 8:28** (NLT) – *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.*
- Cory Asbury: “The story isn’t over if the story isn’t good.” (“My Father’s House”)
- Application #1 – I am going to take up my shield of faith by...
 - Identifying what false concepts of God’s character that I have embraced.
 - Renewing my mind to what the Bible says about God’s goodness through Scripture.
 - Reading A.W. Tozer’s book “The Knowledge of the Holy” in order to form Biblical thoughts about God’s attributes.
 - Listening to CityAlight’s song “His Glory and My Good” today.

2. Trust God’s **promises**.

- Taking up the shield of faith means believing the Bible to be the fully true Word of God. It means believing and obeying the Scriptures.

- Taking up the shield of faith involves taking God at His Word and believing that His promises are true for you.
- Many of us have no problem believing God's promises for OTHER people, but we are hesitant to believe God's promises are for us!
- **2 Corinthians 1:20** – *For all the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus.*
- **Application #3** – Some promises of God's Word that I am believing and trusting God for are...
 - Isaiah 43:1-2** – *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*
 - Philippians 4:13** – *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.*
 - Philippians 4:19** – *My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

SOME VERY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES		
Strength Psalm 18:32; Isaiah 40:31	Guidance John 16:13	Help Isaiah 41:10-14
Instruction Psalm 32:8; John 14:26	Wisdom Prov 2:6-8; James 1:5	Heaven John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:13
The Holy Spirit Acts 2:33; Eph. 1:13	Joy Psalm 132:16; Gal. 5:22	Spiritual Life Romans 8:9-13
Resurrection Life John 11:25	Sufficient Grace 2 Corinth 12:9	Eternal Rewards 1 Tim 4:8; James 1:12
Answered Prayer 1 John 5:14-15	Financial Provision Philippians 4:19	Forgiveness 1 John 1:9
Return of a Prodigal Luke 15:17	He Will Finish His Work Philippians 1:6	Healing Isaiah 53:5
Reaching the Nations Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20	Marriage Oneness Genesis 2:24-25	I Can Do All Things Philippians 4:13

3. Take **steps of faith**.

- The absolute safest place to be is the place where you are stepping out in faith.
- Dr Evans: "Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. It is basing your actions on the belief that what God says is true. It is not necessarily **feeling** like God is telling the truth nor just **saying** that God is telling the truth. Faith is **acting like** God is telling the truth."
- **2 Corinthians 5:7** – *We walk by faith, not by sight.*
- **Hebrews 11:6** (Message) – *It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that He exists and that He cares enough to respond to those who seek Him.*
- **Proverbs 3:5-6** (NIV) – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.*
- Notice that the shield of faith is the first piece of armor in the present tense (Ephesians 6:16). The first three pieces of armor (belt, breastplate, shoes) were already put on (aorist middle; past action;

Ephesians 6:14-15). But the shield of faith is a piece of armor that you are taking up (present tense) in your current circumstances ("in all circumstances").

- Hebrews 11 is our faith guide: "By faith...."
 - **Application #3** – How is God calling me to trust Him in my current circumstances? What faith step does He want me to take right now? What am I trusting God for right now that only God can do?
 - Rowland Bingham: "I do not have a great deal of faith, but I have had a little faith in a great God, and that great God would not let His causes fail."
- ### 4. Trust God **alongside other believers**.
- Faith walking is not a solo sport. We need each other. We need community.
 - **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** – *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! A three-fold cord is not quickly broken.*
 - Rick Warren: "You were formed for God's family. God wants a family, and He created you to be a part of it. This is God's second purpose for your life, which He planned before you were born. The entire Bible is the story of God building a family who will love Him, honor Him, and reign with Him forever."
 - The Roman testudo ("tortoise").
 - Our faith thrives the most when it is combined with others' faith. Our spiritual defenses are strongest when they are combined with other believers. But this requires intentionality about forming community. Who are your fellow faith soldiers whom you will combine your faith shields with?
 - **Application #4** – I am going to be intentional about placing my faith shield side by side with others in community by...
 - Getting into a small group in my church
 - Serving alongside others in my church
 - Going on a mission trip with others from my church

My Application Today – With God's help and power, I am going to...

- Memorize Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV) by memorizing two verses per week during this series. [On February 1, we will recite vv.10-18 together.]
- Put on the whole armor of God daily through prayer.

Father, thank You for making Your armor – the very armor that You Yourself wear – available to me through the merits of Jesus Christ. Right now, by faith, I put on Your armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace shoes, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is Your Word. Protect me from the evil one and use me to advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name.

- Take up the Shield of Faith by...