

## THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 – the shield of *faith*

- Though Satan has many schemes through which he works, he has one clear objective: *to get us to look to ourselves for something and away from Jesus for everything.*
- Some of his titles:
  - Liar
  - Accuser
  - Tempter
  - Deceiver
  - Destroyer



## THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 – the shield of *faith*

- "Taking" – a continually active thing.
- "all" – all
- What is faith?
  - Wishful thinking?
  - Believing the impossible?
  - Believing that which is contrary to fact?
  - Believing that which is contrary to evidence?
  - Ignoring reality?



## THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 – the shield of *faith*

- What is faith?
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  - Ignoring reality?

Habakkuk 2:4 (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:1; Hebrews 10:38)

Hebrews 11:6 – "without *faith* it is impossible to please God"

Whatever "*faith*" is, it is what the disciple of Christ is to live by, so we'd better have a solid understanding of it if we are going to find life that leads to abundance.



## THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 – "Now faith is..."

1. the assurance.
  - *a declaration intended to give confidence; promise; guaranty; surety; full confidence; freedom from doubt; certainty; freedom from timidity; boldness.*
  - There is a reality of faith which satisfies the intellect because it is founded on reason – historically accurate and scientifically sound! – **intellectual**
  - Romans 10:17 – "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ"
  - Faith is based firmly on Jesus as Truth and His Words as the foundation of the way things really are.
  - 1 Corinthians 15:1-14



## THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 – "Now faith is..."

2. the conviction of things unseen .
  - *a fixed or firm belief.*
  - Because faith stands on what is demonstrably true, then when I am asked to believe what I cannot verify, I know the demands of me are consistent with what is true.
  - This reality of faith demands that I surrender my will and believe to be true what I can't understand or substantiate through history or science – **volitional**
  - Hebrews 4:2
  - If Truth does not move one from mere belief to active faith, then it is of no benefit whatsoever.
  - Inactive faith is merely belief. (James 2:14-26)



## THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

John 20:28 – "*my Lord and my God*"

- "my God" – proof of intellectual faith
- "my Lord" – proof of volitional faith

But what *is* faith?

3. Hebrews 12:1,2 – "fixing our eyes on Jesus"
  - "fixing our eyes on Jesus"
  - Lit. "looking away *unto* Jesus"
  - Looking away to the foundational Truth of Jesus as Lord and God – everything of Him, nothing of me!
  - "Faith ... is by its very nature scarcely conscious of its own existence. Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the Object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all." (Tozer, POG)



## THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH



How do we increase our faith?

- Faith acts on what is true. (Rom 10:17)
- "The just shall live by faith" (Rom 1:16,17)

Faith	Righteousness	Peace
Truth	Righteousness	Peace

## THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH



3. Hebrews 12:1,2 – "let us..."

- "the author ... of faith"
- Pioneer, Trailblazer, Captain!
- He blazed a trail for our justification before a Holy God!
- "the perfecter of faith"
- It is now Him at work in us (2 Tim 1:12) to complete us – sanctification.

"Faith is not in itself a meritorious act; the merit is in the One toward Whom it is directed. Faith is a redirecting of our sight, a getting out of the focus of our own vision and getting God into focus. Sin has twisted our vision inward and made it self-regarding. Unbelief has put self where God should be" (Tozer, POG)

## THE MIND SET



Romans 8:5-8

- The mind set on the flesh is death.
- The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace!



← Spirit



→ flesh



**Life**

peace, patience, kindness, love, joy, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, selflessness, generosity, trustworthiness, meekness, self-control

**death**

sensuality, sting, idolatry, impurity, anger, pride, boastfulness, jealousy, impure thoughts, unforgivenness, disputes, fear, anxiety, guilt, worrying, addictions, arrogance, avarice, factions

"If a random sample of one thousand American Christians were taken today, the majority would define faith as a belief in the existence of God. In earlier times it did not take faith to believe that God existed – almost everybody took that for granted. Rather, faith had to do with one's relationship to God – whether one trusted in God. The difference between faith as 'belief in something that may or may not exist' and faith as 'trusting in God' is enormous. The first is a matter of the head, the second a matter of the heart. The first can leave us unchanged, the second intrinsically brings change."

*Brennan Manning – The Ragamuffin Gospel*

*Belief merely accepts something as true. Faith acts on the truth*

"Faith ... is by its very nature scarcely conscious of its own existence. Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the Object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all. While we are looking at God we do not see ourselves – blessed riddance. The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do."

*A.W. Tozer – Pursuit of God*

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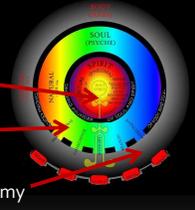
*A.W. Tozer – Pursuit of God*

"Faith is not the holding of correct doctrine, but personal

Hebrews 12:1,2  
5. "Author" – Pioneer, Trailblazer, Captain!  
a) He has blazed the way for us and is now seated –  
there is nothing more to be done – ever!  
b) Jesus is THE WAY  
c) We have complete freedom to live and walk with Him in every moment of our lives – a love fest.  
6. "Perfector"  
a) Jesus "perfected" the way of faith since He reached its end successfully  
b) If we are "in Him" then He is completely responsible for perfecting our faith! 2 Tim. 1:12!

### THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

Hebrews 10:22



*Author:* Looking away unto Christ for my justification (spirit)

*Perfector:* Looking away unto Christ for my sanctification (soul)

*Finisher:* Looking away unto Christ for my glorification (body)

*Faith is an active looking away from self and seeing so clearly Who Jesus is as all Truth that our only response becomes yes, my Lord and my God, here am I, send me and use me as you desire.*