

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"FAITH AND FIERY DARTS"

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Ephesians 6:16

The Holy Bible tells us to put on the full or whole armor of God so that we can stand against the devil's schemes. The parts of the armor bear repeating so that we can remember them. I will summarize using the wording from the New International Version of the Bible from Ephesians 6:14-18. We are admonished to stand firm then, with **the belt of truth** around our waist; with the breastplate **of righteousness** in place; with your **feet fitted with readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. Then we are told that in addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all fiery darts or flaming arrows of the wicked one. We are to take **the helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. We are to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. These verses give us some wonderful instructions, but do we consistently follow them?

The coronavirus is a fiery dart; therefore, let's consider how we use the shield of faith to quench it. What do we know about faith? Hebrews 11:1-2: **"Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it, the elders obtained a good report.** Hebrews 11:6- **"Without faith, it is impossible to please God. The Armor of God**, a Bible study by Priscilla Shirer, provides many great illustrations concerning the various pieces of armor. Shirer paints a vivid picture of how the shield of faith looked. She states on page 125: *"Paul was referencing a larger shield that was typically two feet wide and four feet long, shaped almost like a door, consisting of planks of wood fused together. The wood was covered by canvas. Then by leather. Then iron was built into the center as a hub and onto the extreme edges of the shield from top to bottom. Ancient historians say these shields were so large that they were capable of covering the whole body of a soldier when he was crouching down."*

It is very important that Christians recognize fiery darts, the enemy's arrows designed to keep Christians from living the abundant life. Faith can conquer fiery darts which come to cause fear, disruption, distraction and ultimately discouragement. Priscilla also shared her father's, Dr. Tony Evans, definition of faith: **"Faith is acting like it is so, even when it is not so, so that it might be so, simply because God said so."** Yes, **"We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, trusting in His Holy Word; He's never failed me yet."** My sisters and brothers, we cannot turn around.

How will you respond to today's message?

Prayer

Oh, for a faith that will not shrink no matter what comes. Lord, please give us a faith such as this so that we can obtain a good report. We thank you! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
