

Connect

Would you consider trials a necessity in order to build faith?

Why or why not?

Verses - Ephesians 6:16 (CSB)

16 In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Study

1. Paul clearly regards ***this*** faith in v.16 as being *a very good thing*. He spent many years of his life proclaiming it and writing about it. Here, he tells the Ephesians that this faith can be used as a shield to extinguish **all** the flaming arrows *of the evil one*.

   a) But please consider: is "faith" ever a bad thing? If so, what makes it bad? (Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 23:13-26; Acts 17:23; James 2:14-18; etc.)

   b) What can we do to ensure that our faith (and that of our families and friends) becomes and remains as a good thing, such as Paul has in mind here? (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13:2, etc)

2. What does Paul mean by ***"all the flaming arrows of the evil one"?*** (Genesis 3:4; Job 1:13-19; 2:7-8; Matthew 4:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Peter 5:8-10, etc.)

3. What does Paul mean by ***"the shield of faith"*** and exactly how can we use it to ***"extinguish"*** all the flaming arrows of the evil one? (Psalm 26:1, 119:105; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; 28:18; John 14:21; James 4:7)

DISCUSS

How is the faith that we are to have going to be applicable to *every situation (v.16)*? Certainly applicable if we are persecuted for our faith. How about other situations? For example, should this be applied if we lost our wallet? Or have abundance?

Apply

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." What will applied faith look like? (Notice prayer comes after in v.18.)

Share

How has your faith brought you through tough times? How about a future hope? Share your testimony.

Grow

Take these questions seriously: What might you be able to confess? What can you praise God for who He is? What can you thank Him for? Finally, take prayer requests and pray for each other. Have someone pray the Lord's Prayer before closing.