

Throughout Scripture, Christian faith is described as putting **trust** in God's character and His Word. It's not just belief in God's existence, but a deep reliance on who He is and what He says. Faith is also shown through **obedience and action**. **James 2:17 (NIV):** *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* This means true faith naturally leads to a lifestyle that reflects trust in God.

**Faith is a gift and a response. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV):** *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.* Faith is both a response to God's grace and a gift given by Him.

**How does Christian faith differ from other types of 'faith?'**  
**When can Christian faith be misused or misrepresented?**

**Read Ephesians 6:16**

- 1. What is the significance of the "shield" as a metaphor for faith?** How does a physical shield function in battle, and how does that relate to how faith works in our spiritual lives?
- 2. What do you think Paul means by "flaming arrows of the evil one"?** Can you identify some "flaming arrows" (e.g. doubts, temptations, fear, accusations) you've experienced in your own life?
- 3. Why do you think Paul says "take up" the shield of faith?** Does this suggest that faith is something active or passive? Explain.
- 4. How does faith "extinguish" the flaming arrows instead of just deflecting them?** What does this tell you about the power and nature of faith?
- 5. In what ways can we practically "take up" the shield of faith daily?** What are some habits or actions that help strengthen your faith in difficult times?
- 6. How is the shield of faith connected to other pieces of the armor of God mentioned in Ephesians 6 (belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, etc.)?** Can faith work alone, or is it more effective when combined with the other armour?
- 7. How has your faith personally protected you in challenging seasons?** Can you share a specific testimony where faith shielded you from spiritual or emotional harm?
- 8. Read Hebrews 11. What does the "faith chapter", teach us about the power of faith in the lives of believers?** How can these examples help us understand the practical outworking of the shield of faith?
- 9. What role does community play in helping us hold up our shield of faith?** How can other believers support you when your faith feels weak?

## Prayer Points

Please pray as MP's continue to debate the assisted suicide bill. Pray for a change in the outcome, pray in particular for those with additional needs who feel vulnerable.

Pray for the Alpha course, those leading and attending that God would richly bless their time together.

## Sermon Notes



**BIBLE  
STUDY**  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025

### **The Armour of God: Shield of Faith Ephesians 6:16**

As we read in our series on Daniel last year, an unseen battle is going on around us in the spiritual realm. In Paul's letter we see that God has provided everything we need to stand firm and resist evil, but we are called to be actively aware of both the struggle and the resources available.

In Ephesians 6 the apostle Paul gives us the clearest description anywhere in Scripture of believers' resources for the spiritual battle. He vividly describes them as armour, which we must repeatedly take up in prayerful reliance on God.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001