

Expose 79 K43

Armed And Dangerous

This is Expose 247 and we welcome you to another weekend of Exploration. So today we are going to look at the length, the breath, the depth of all these dimensions of God's counsel as regard prayers we started a long while ago. And beyond the exploration, we are just telling you that you will be eternally vigilant about all these things that you know, that nobody takes it away from you. You will not be exploited. So beyond the exploration, we are asking you to be eternally vigilant about all these things, about all the knowledge of what we are sharing. And we are bringing you the word of Psalmist who said that, **with my whole life will I seek you, let me not wander away from your counsel.** So today we are calling you away from all wandering so you can stay focus in the counsel of the Lord, what the Lord will have you to know and what the Lord has done, and what he has done in you and what he is in you.

And so today we are going to continue from what we started, that is the tradition of Knock Out season and it's exploring, open our eyes, making our eyes open to all the eternal truth of God's Word. And if you've been following us, you know we've been having some topics on prayers. We moved to the warfare. We move to Ephesians Chapter 6. And last weekend we were talking about do not outsource your thinking. And if you missed that, you really need to go to our Expose 247 page and go and listen to that.

Last Sunday we stopped at talking about the weapon of Peace. If you are there, you will be able to know that Peace could be an instrument of offence and defense. So that is it. So everybody is looking about peace, we have nations treaty and everything about living in peace. Peace is so pivotal. We have to tell you the way of going about it. There is a kingdom way of going about peace. It's not just about compromise and just let's meet midway. So you really to understand what that is. And so in that tradition we are continuing again to see another instrument of defense in Ephesians Chapter 6.

Would you like to say something to that?

Well, viewers thank you for tuning today on this Knock Out series. Again, let us call your attention to what we've been focusing on in that past few transmission as regarding Ephesians Chapter 6.

Well, what we've been looking at is the fact that Jesus Christ gave the victory to the believer. It means a Christian is not call to fight, to get the victory of Christ. That was the business of Jesus. And he did that on the cross. The Bible tells us in Colossians 2 that Jesus spoilt principalities and powers. Jesus did it. So the believer was only invited to take his stand in what Christ paid for. It means, it's not enough that Christ paid for it, we have to walk in what he paid for. And that is why the believer is invited to stand or take his ground. And that is what the believer is expected to do.

And then Ephesians 6 gives us a pivotal insight into this standing ministry of the believer. Because the reason we are asked to stand is because we are dealing with an enemy who's got schemes and antics. This is what we talked about in the past. And we began to look at each of the item in our armory.

And let's us say this; for very importantly that if we begin to look at the item in our armory, it's not just because we are focusing on what the enemy can do against the believer. We are automatically in actual fact focusing on the strength of the Lord because Ephesians 6 tells us be strong. That was where he started. He started by saying be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

So a study of Ephesians 6 in terms of spiritual warfare is actually a study in the strength of the Lord. The armory reflect the strength of our God. So when people talk about Satanic attacks, let study how to deal with the devil and most people get carried away and we begin to in a way exult and begin to amplify the antics of the devil.

The Apostle Paul began Ephesians 6 from verse 10, he says you need to be strong in the Lord. Take advantage of the armory that God has granted you. And we began to take a look at all these armory and up till our last transmission, we talked about the importance of peace.

Now, today we are going to go to the next one, the next item in the armory. And again, let me call your attention to this. The only guarantee that the Lord God gives us that we will be standing at the end of the day, he says having done all to stand. It means you cannot take a single item in the armory, you cannot said that I think I have tried. The Bible says having done all to stand. People talk about today that you cannot be sure who will make it in the long run. They say well, only God's mercy can make us to make it in the long run, let us just keep praying for God's mercy. That is true, but the reality is, the scriptures tell us things we can do, things we can take our standing to ensure that at the end of every day we are going to stand. So he tells us we need to take up the full armory.

So in that spirit, in that understanding, we are going to investigate the next item in our armory in the arsenal of God.

Now, let's go quickly to Ephesians Chapter 6 and look at verse 16.

Verse 16, that is the next armory we are going to be looking at.

Ephesians 6:16

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

Now, please I want you to look at this. He says above all, taking the shield of faith. You don't say above all, if you are not referring to something before. Now, what was he referring to before? Of course he was talking about the last three armory that we did discuss in the past few transmission. We've talked about the belt of truth. We've talked about the breastplate of righteousness and our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

And here he says above all, he says in addition if you check some other translation. He says in addition to what I've told you.

Now, the reason why the Apostle Paul used the word above all in this case, is because he's going to change his vocabulary. He is going to change his explanation of this armory. He says above all. In addition to the last three armory that I mentioned. Above all, in addition to those, I will tell you what you need to do extra in addition to the ones I've mentioned.

Now, why the change of language? Why the change of statement? This is the reason, you will soon notice why.

Look at what he says, he says taking on, taking the shield of faith. There is a change of language in the last three armory. He said having on. If you are with us in the past few transmissions. Having on the belt of truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, Can you see that? Having your feet shod. It was having, having, having.

Now, he says let's change it now. He says above all, in addition to what I said, now take. Not having now, take.

Now, it seems then out of these six armories that we have as Christians to take our stand in the victory of what Jesus paid for. The Apostle Paul says there are two different categories, there is having on categories, and there is taking categories. And you as a believer need to understand the distinction if you will maximize the

effectiveness of the armory that we have been given in Christ Jesus to take our stand against the schemes of the devil. We are not fighting the Satan as it were. We are fighting the antics, the schemes of the devil. The deception of Satan.

So the Bible says here in this case, above all.

Now, we are going to investigate why the change of terminology by the Apostle Paul. The reason he changes his terminology is actually to imprint into our understanding a different perspective of this next three armories as compared to the previous three armories.

Now, let's see taking on the shield of faith. Why is it different? Now, let's look at this. The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the feet shod with the gospel of peace. If you notice when a Romans soldier dresses up, you see your belt is always there, it doesn't matter the situation, it's like a standpoint. It's like a mentality. We've dealt with this in the past. Please check our other title. It means you have the belt on all the time, it's just your stand point. It's just the way you are. If you are dress up you have the dress on. And when it comes to your shoe, it doesn't matter whether the enemy is shooting or not, as a soldier, the shoe is always on. Then you can't be walking barefooted. And also when it comes to the breastplate it's always there on the chest. You have it on.

But you see and one thing you notice about the other previous three armories I have talked about is, they are actually fasten to the body. I will say that again, for example look at your belt, once you hooked on your belt it's there. It's fasten to your waist. For example the breastplate of righteousness is fasten to the chest. The soldier doesn't need to keep holding to his breastplate, it's fasten on to there. And the other one, which is talking about your feet shod with the gospel of peace, it's also fasten to your feet. I have never seen anyone trying to say, I put on my shoe, I will use my hands to support my shoe as am walking. That doesn't make sense right? The previous three armories were fasten to your body.

But why the Apostle Paul changes the terminology? Because this shield of faith is what you take on. There is no way to fasten the shield to your body. You have to reach out and make use of this particular weapon. It's not something the soldier has on, on his body. That is why he changed the terminology that you take this one on, that you pick up this one. This one doesn't automatically get fasten to your body. He said, take on the shield of faith.

Now, let see this, why take on the shield of faith? See what he says next?

So please understand the switch of tongue and this switch we begin to investigate this more and more as we go on.

See what he says

Take on the shield of faith. Now watch this! **wherewith...**

Now let's talk about what is meant to do. What is it that will happen to the Christians? What will happen to a believer spiritual life if he is not taking it on? He will tell us that.

Taking on the shield of faith wherewith you shall be able.

It means he says a capacity will come to your life. You will be able. It means, you have the capacity and ability comes to you. It means, this shield of faith he's talking about introduces to the believer an ability, a capacity he will not have otherwise without the shield.

He said wherewith you will be able. It means, without this shield of faith you will not be able. It doesn't matter... You know atimes Christians we believed once in a while that we can use some other spiritual activity or some other spiritual engagement to make up for some other things. For example most people who talk about spiritual warfare talk about praying fire prayers, hot prayers, to deal with the situation, to stop the hand of the enemy.

Have you notice, I call your attention to Ephesians Chapter 6 that the Apostle Paul only began to talk about prayer from verse 18 of Ephesians 6. When he says praying with all manner of prayers and supplication (Ephesians 6:18). He did not even start talking about prayer until verse 18. But I know so many people are so keen to believe that prayer is just like that almighty weapon that actually makes up for some deficiency in our armor. It doesn't! Am sorry to say.

The Bible says that taking on the shield of faith makes us to be able to do something. It gives you a capacity. What capacity is that? He said, wherewith you shall be able to quench... that is it! To quench.

Now this word **quench** is a very old English. What does it mean? **It means you will put out.** You will put out some things. Now he says put out what? The fiery darts of the wicked.

Ok. Now, this actually boils down to the fact that we say all the devil has, the ministry of Satan.

See! As a believer, to be effective and to walk in dominion. To be able to benefit in the victory that Christ paid for on the cross. This is something you need to know, that Satan ministry has been reduced to only one type. I repeat that, the ministry of the devil in this last days, there is only one type of ministry. Before Jesus came and before Jesus went to the cross, the devil has so many ministries.

In fact, Hebrew Chapter 2 verse 14 tells us that Satan had the power of death prior to the cross. The devil's power and his capacity before the cross was so big and so great. In fact, the Bible tells us that he is the one that actually kept those people bound in captivity. But when Jesus went to the cross, he became a game changer.

In fact, book of Revelation tells the Christians that Jesus now, is the one that holds the keys of death and hell. It was what the devil had before. But Jesus holds the key of death and hell. So it means that kind of reduced the ministry of Satan to only one ministry. You ask me that ministry? The only one he has left is just to shoot things at believer. He doesn't have what it takes over your destiny anymore. He only fires things at you. He only shootings things at you. The Bible says, the wicked one and all his ministers, all they do is fire arrows, shoots at the believer. And the Bible says these arrows are fiery darts.

Now, the reason why he says fiery darts is because back in the days when the Roman soldiers was at war. What they normally do is, when they shoot darts or shoot arrows at themselves. What they tend to do is, they put fire at the tip of the arrow so that when the arrow is being shot and it hit the enemy, it's not just effect of the sharpness of the arrow that is the problem, the arrow is carrying something much more deadly. It has fire on it. Something that sets the whole thing on fire.

So the Apostle Paul likens or connect what the enemy throws at us. It's not just about the fact that he is shooting arrow at the believer, the arrows has something on it. And he says when it comes at believe, there is only one way to quench it. You put it out. How do you do that? He said by taking... mark the word. Taking... unless you take this shield, this shield will not take itself.

The reason why we are on this Knock Out Series today is to show you by the revelation of God's Word how to take it. Unfortunately it doesn't take itself. It doesn't actually act by itself. It must be taken. And he says, unless we take it, we will not have the capacity to put out whatever fire is on the arrow that the enemy is shooting at the believer.

Today, we have the responsibility in the Holy Ghost to break what the arrows are, to break down what is this fire on the arrow? and to break down how do we take on this shield of faith?

It's good that we mentioned this and I hope our viewers are actually listening to this. If you've been following us like we said we have series of teachings about dressing up, putting on. So today there is a sharp demarcation between what you put on and what you actively take on. So today, we pray that you will find strength in your muscle. You will find strength be it physical and spiritual to approach these things. You will not be scare to approach the shield of faith because that is the only way for you to deal with that fiery dart.

So apart from what you are putting on, you will not just stop at that. The business does not end at that on what you put on. You are going to move on actively to that weapon which is the shield of faith. You just have to be brave. And we are calling you out to bravery for you to approach it and take it up. You have to take it up. So there is a difference in what you put on and what you take up. And there is no way we can combat the fiery dart by what you put on. No! You can't use one for one. You can't combat with your belt. You cannot combat the fiery dart with that belt. You can't combat it with your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel.

So if you are concern about the fiery dart of the enemy you need to know how to take on this shield of faith. So it's not really... you can't do without it. And say oh! I want to confront the fiery dart of the enemy but I don't want to take the shield of faith. There is no way around it.

Thank you for that insight.

Now, let's get on with this. Now the first few things we have to look at quickly is what are the things that are being thrown at the believer? What are the fiery darts? What are those darts and arrows that carry the fire?

Please I want to take our attention to the word fiery dart. It will mean then when these darts or these arrows hit anything or they touch anything. What they do is not just the sharpness that pierces things, they introduces the fire with what they are piercing. Please take note of that as we begin to investigate what the fiery darts are and see how the scriptures practically tells the believer to quench.

And there is something you talk about and I think viewers might be interested to know that. If somebody doesn't have the shield of faith and they have the breastplate of righteousness on, it will mean that even when the arrow goes, the fiery dart can actually touch the breastplate of the believer which is the breastplate of righteousness.

This particular arrow could actually hit the belt of truth. This particular arrow could actually hit the feet shod with the gospel of peace. It's not that they couldn't hit it, but what happen is you get to the point where you begin to feel the effect of this arrow actually coming at the chest or coming at the feet or coming at the belt areas. But what the Bible say is, instead of trying to survive at that level against the effect of the arrow. He said, I will show you how to quench it, so that you don't get to a point where you then put your breastplate under stress or put your belt of truth under pressure or put your feet which is shod with the gospel of peace comes under pressure and tension. That is why there are times believer get worn out and tired. That is why the Bible says in the book of Galatians, he said **do not be weary in well doing**. The reason why weariness get it in, or discouragement get in is because we are constantly under fire, under attack at all these regions. But the Bible says there is no point getting to that stage, you could even quench it before it hit's any of those points. You could just put it out. And that is what he is simply saying there.

Yes, I will like to remind our viewers to know about our Father that our good Father is not the one that is watching us to fall. Because some people feel like that is the way a good father is. He will you watch out for you and make sure you fall and be able to tell you that all is well, I have told you if you have listen to something like that. We have scriptures replete with so many examples of where he is telling us his intention unto God that is able to keep us, spirit soul and body blameless. That is the thing. Covering everything.

And we even see in Ephesians 6 that there is guarantee for us not falling. So we don't have a Father that is just supervising and be able to just comfort alone and that is the thing. So we have places in scriptures encouraging us that we can have these things all. We can have these never falling. We have guarantees all over the scriptures. And that is what Ephesians 6 is about.

Because you know when you mentioned the shield of faith some people go into panic mode. You know they can understand that they are more comfortable with breastplate of righteousness as a defense. They are comfortable with the belt of truth, they understand that. They are comfortable with that. When it comes to shield of faith they go into panic and say Oh, because of some habit, or some things not properly understood, so they rather say they want to move away and keep away from these. But you know you are going to just overstress and expose yourself to needless danger.

And we have a Father is not about falling and rising. You can stand blameless spirit, soul and body and that is the intention of the Father. And that is what we are opening your eye to, to see the intention of the Father in which you can stand blameless and

not falling. And your guarantee for now falling at all is having all of these, the one that you are going to put on and the one that you are going to take on.

Thank you for that.

It will seem to me that the goodness of God our Father, the goodness of the Lord is reflected in the way these armory are arranged. It will sound to you if you look at this Ephesians 6 from verse 15 to 17. It seems that the Lord gave an extra layer of protection. Can you see? The first three armories were there, he says above all. And again it will seem that even though I know you are protected by the first three armories, I will give you a second layer of double protection. I mean, it means we are guarantee not to fail. Too loaded in the Holy Ghost to fail. That is why he says be strong in the Lord, in the power of his might. Too loaded to fail.

In fact Proverbs 24:10 tells the believer, he says **if you faint in the day of adversity, if in the long run under so much pressure and tension and you fall out, he said it could be then you didn't take advantage of the strength of the Lord. He says your strength is small.** It means you didn't maximize something. Something wasn't maximize that you had access to. And that is why we are here on this Knock Out series today to expose these to us so that we don't become victim and we will walk in the victory that Christ paid for.

So quickly let's go. We are trying to figure out again, what are the fiery darts? Unless we understand the fiery darts of the wicked, what the wicked throws at us. We tend not to understand how to take up the shield of faith in that regard. Let's go back to 1Peter Chapter 5 from verse 7.

Now, again don't forget we are investigating what the fiery darts are and also we are looking at how to take on the shield of faith to quench. The word quench is a very great word to put out every single fire that the enemy is bringing our way.

You can read verse 7.

1Peter 5:7

7. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Now, that is great. Of course, having cares is just part of being human. I mean, of course even it doesn't matter, I don't care who people are, whether you are rich person, poor person, tall, short, boy, girl, male, female, young, old, you live in the city, you live in the village, you live in the third world, you live in the first world. Cares, concerns are just part of life. And don't let anybody tell you they are no

concerns. I don't care their status, whether socially, psychologically or physically. Concerns and cares are just part of life. Is that ok?

But then what he says is, he is not saying am surprise you have care. Can you see? He did not say am surprise that you have lots of things you have to deal with. I believe some of you are watching this today who are listening to this transmission, you have at the moment there are some things that are bothering your mind, there are some thing that are so important to you. Family things, personal things, things at work, things at home, things everywhere. You have things that are bothering your mind. The Lord is not saying am surprise things are bothering your mind. He just say do something, think it and cast it unto the Lord.

Now, this is the reason watch it! Watch why he said so...

What does he say next?

Now watch what verse 8 says,

8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Now, where come the devil in this discussion? I thought we are talking about cares. I thought we are talking about your daily situation? I thought we are talking about your daily experience? We are talking about things that are legitimate needs that you are concern about. But he says the reason I told you to cast it upon the Lord is I will tell you something. There is somebody.

Now watch what he says.

He says be sober, be vigilant. If you in our last transmission, you will notice that we talked about this sober and vigilant as an armory. That is why the Bible says having your feet shod with the readiness, vigilance of the gospel of peace. It's meant to be a defense. Readiness mean you are ready to deal with any situation that comes. We dealt with that in our last transmission. Please check our episode on the weapon of peace. So you can see that is an armory by itself. Be vigilant.

Now, look at the next thing.

because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Let's break this down. Listen to this, the devil doesn't have a time and space problem. I will tell you the reason. It is physical beings, people who are physical, people who are natural that have a time and space problem, moving around here and there. For

example somebody like you if you want to go from A to B, it could take you 10minutes or 1hour to go from one point to the other.

Now, the devil according to the scriptures in 2Corinthians 11, he says little marvel that Satan is appear like an angel of light. The Bible tells us that the devil is an angel, we know that from Ezekiel, book of Isaiah tell us. The devil was an anointed cherub that cover the seat of God. The devil is a fallen angel. He is a spirit. It means, he doesn't have a time and space problem to go from one point to the other. So why does the Bible says he has to walk about from one place to the other? He doesn't have a time and space issue. So what is his problem? What is he moving about to do?

Go back to verse 7, you will see where he says I told you to cast your care upon the Lord, all the devil is trying to do with the believer is to look around your circumstances. He is busy moving around looking at situations and circumstance and opportunity for him to fire something. That is why he says he is roaring, moving around, he is not a time and space problem. It's about the fact that you have a situation, you have a concern. You have cares in your life and the devil is just moving around the cares, moving around the situation looking for the loophole. So when the Bible says the devil is moving around, is not time and space the issue is, he is talking about the cares, circumstances, moving around.

Don't forget the Bible says he fires fiery dart. We are going to come to that very soon. So the devil is moving around that is why he says be vigilant. About what? Not necessarily about the devil but about the cares I told you about in verse 7.

Watch it now! I know you have concern. I know you are bothered. I know you are thinking about your circumstance. I know you have cares. But watch it now, because somebody is looking for a loophole using those very cares around your life. And that is what he is saying there.

Now if you go on, what did he says next?

9. Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Now, I tell you to take a shield. Can you see that? He says now, the reason is in those your cares and circumstances, somebody is moving around the cares and circumstance looking for a loophole. He is trying to fire something, the cares and concerns in your life is not the arrow, is not the fiery dart but he is trying to use them as a platform to fire a fiery dart at your heart.

He is trying to throw something at you. But he says resist him, take on. Take on what? Resist him steadfast in the faith. Take on the shield of faith. Why? Because with those very circumstances, with the very cares we are talking about. It is the devil's opportunity to fire something at the believer.

Now question you want to ask is, what is he going to fire at the believer? Well, your cares and your worries whatever it is, is Satan's perfect opportunity to throw discouragement. The devil's perfect opportunity to throw disappointment. The devil's perfect opportunity to throw doubts. Doubts about the capacity of God. Doubts about the ability of God in your life. He says your concern is Satan's perfect opportunity to throw his doubts.

Now, please why did he says fiery darts? It's fiery dart because when the Romans soldiers throws the arrows with the fire. What happens is, the fire set things up. There is a conflagration. And when things go out of control, it means he is simply saying he can heighten and fire up your emotional cares in such a way that you lose control of the situation. He said, watch it! Take on, resist him taking on see! He said take on , resist him standing firm in the faith.

We are going to come to that later about resisting him standing firm in the faith. I am just giving you a circumstances to show you by the word that the devil moving around is trying to penetrate your circumstance that we are dealing with in our everyday life.

Yes, looking through verse 7 talking about casting all your cares. Because we've seen some people who actually invalidate some other people's cares because it's not actually their cares. And feel like maybe third world people invalidating first world cares. People in first world, and first world people invalidating those ones in third world. It doesn't matter what kind of cares it is.

So people going to the length of what cares should be regarding that is not the point. We see 1Peter 5 verse 7 was telling us that there are cares and it's normal to have those cares. It is normal whether some people find it reasonable or not. About what do you do about it? That it can be a perfect opportunity for the devil, moving around all those cares.

So it's not about, we don't you to just close off your mind and just close your mind off the cares and distancing yourself from the care. That is not the thing that we are talking about here. But those cares are perfect opportunity, the devil is locking around it and the only way we can see this is about how you cannot fall a victim, is about resisting steadfast in the faith.

So you cannot do without the faith. No matter how you don't like the word faith or how the weapon and instrument of faith, I just want my breastplate of righteousness, I just want the belt of truth. As much as those are important but as long as you are a human and on this side of eternity, wherever you are on this side of eternity, when the cares come in, the devil is locking around those. And that is it. And the only way you can deal with that is having that faith, taking up, taking on the shield of faith.

I hope our viewers will remember that. That think about as you come into situations. That the cares of this world and you come into situations and circumstance like that you know that there is a shield of faith to take up in that situation. You can't afford to go lose in your thought. You cannot go wild in your thought without taking up the shield of faith.

Now, as we actually go on with this. Again, viewers I want to call your attention to the word fiery darts. I want to call your attention to the fact that is not just darts that the enemy is throwing, he is throwing fiery darts. Darts that has fire. And the reason the Bible says those darts has fire is because when they land on the heart of the believer, or they land on the thinking of the believer, they set the whole thing on fire. And you know what fire does on the natural. When anything catches fire, it means things are out of control. That is what he says there. They say fire is a good servant but a bad master.

So the enemy set everything on fire. It means the very basic concern you are talking about, you see people getting worn out, weary, discouraged, down and out. And you wonder, is it not just same situation we are talking about? Oh! There is a fire. It's been set on fire. And the Bible talks about the fact that we can doubt. We can quench that fire. He says we can quench it. The shield of faith to quench it.

I want to add that the way some people, am still on this verse 7 that was talking about casting your care, because some people approach these things and run away from their cares. You know, they've been taught to run away from it. So they run away from responsibility. Some parents run away from their parental responsibility. Just like Jesus was talking to those Pharisees that instead of me doing this I will rather come and give themselves and say the way out of care is just to run away from it. I am not in the midst of it. I don't have to discharge this duty that is require of me. So let me give myself to the Lord more or something. Run away, some run into some even ministry, some run into services, in the name of the Lord's service all in the name. So that they think with that, they will be far away from those cares and responsibility.

We are finding that, that is not the kingdom way out of it. So you can't run away from your responsibility. You can't run away from your duty. You cannot substitute it even

with so call services for God, service in the name of God. The way about it, you cannot say because of the care you are terrify, because you know the devil is locking around those things and so the thing is just to flee. No! There are places where you need to flee, where you need to run. But in this case of cares, you are to just take up the shield of faith, so you are not to run. You are to take up the shield of faith.

Thank you for that insight.

So like I was saying before, the reason why he talked about the fact that this darts has fire. They set the same emotions. You see and I think don't get this twisted in how we are presenting this today. We are not saying the devil is the one responsible for discouragement. Because some people are teaching everything is Satan. The devil is under every single rock.

Well, the Bible doesn't tell us that. There is no approach to spiritual warfare that is so nuance as that presented by the apostolic revelation through the ministry of Paul. It means we've talked about this before, you might want to check our previous transmission where we call it "**spiritual warfare: finding the balance.**" We are not saying Satan is the one that causes discouragement, or Satan causes anxiety, or Satan causes people to lose their peace.

Well, if anybody tells you that, the person is just over presenting the devil. Is that ok? By natural means just because there are issues around us, we are bound to be concern without even the devil involve. If you are somebody like she was talking about somebody who has a sense of responsibility, concerns and being careful about things is part of our every day to day experience. That is not the problem. The problem is what the devil does, walks around. Bible says be sober and vigilant even though I said, you have cares be sober and vigilant. What he does is, he tries to shoot something at your heart using the circumstances. So what happened is, he shoot arrows that has fire.

So what the devil does is puts fear to that emotions. Set that emotion on fire. Is call fiery darts. Set it on fire and it becomes uncontrollable. That is where the devil comes in. If you notice, I give you a good illustration, we might not actually open the verse but I might encourage you to read that up for those who want to understand more. If you read Luke Chapter 22. Let's read it before we come back to this fiery dart of the wicked, it's important to understand this.

Let's look at Judas. Let's see Judas experience.

If you look at Luke 22 from verse 1.

Luke 22

1. Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.

2. And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people.

3. Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve

That is it! I mean entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot to do what?

4. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Now, as you can see from what the Bible tells us there, he says Satan entered into Judas. The question you want to ask is does that mean then that the reason why Judas wanted to sell Jesus or in a way betray Jesus because of the pieces of silver they were going to give to him? Does it mean can we say Satan was responsible? The Bible says Satan entered Judas.

Well, if you check John 12 you will know that this is not the very first time that Judas has been trying to make some money or maximizing his financial capacity by doing some dubious stuff. Satan wasn't involve in this. If you check John 12, if you look at verse 6.

See what he says,

John 12:4-6

4. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him.

...which should betray him.

I mean the person that Satan will use, but this time around, Satan wasn't involved.

Go on please,

5. Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

6. This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Now watch this. This is what Judas said not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief. Now keep minding the word **he**. No Satan. He was a thief. Not the devil causing him to steal. **He** was a thief. **He** had the bag.

And then the Bible tells us that Judas: he was a thief. He not Satan. It was him that had the bag. It was him stealing not Satan pushing him to steal. We then saw that all the devil then did in Luke 22 was to fire to that same emotions. That is all he does.

That is why the Apostle Paul warn the believers in Ephesians Chapter 6 verse 16, take on the shield of faith against the fiery darts of the wicked. The wicked one that looks around the circumstances, looks at your need and your lack, looks at your concerns and your cares and all he tries to do is set something on fire. Fiery darts of the wicked. And then makes that same emotions go out of control. And that is all he does. And the Bible says we have to quench that by the shield of faith.

Again don't forget we've not even practically talk about now anyway about how to take on the shield of faith. But we are going to go deeper into that very soon.

Let me point it out to our viewers that verse 6 even actually use the word that this he said not that he cares for the poor. He did not care for the poor but he cares for himself, how to enrich himself. So we see the care directly in that. He did not care for this. He care for other things. He care about personal aggrandizement. How he can enrich himself with that pulse. That is about care and we can see how it can flair up. In Luke 22, Satan then fires up the thing.

So you need to have a control on the care and having the shield of faith as a control when the devil is planning to set it up in fire.

Now, I think we begin to make clear why this dart is call fiery. The one that carry fires to cause ... so Judas already had a thief tendency. But of course Luke 22 says Satan just came and then fire the whole thing up, that is all he did.

So here we come back to the scripture saying well, we should look at every situation around us. So am going to invite you today to take a kind of introspective look at your life and at your circumstances. Watch your life around you. Whatever it is, whatever it is! Whatever it is! It could be your health. It could be your finances. It could be your circumstances. It could be your children. It could be your family. It could be your need. It could be anything around you.

The Bible says well, the devil is roaring around like a roaring lion looking... it means all he is trying to do is use the circumstance as a springboard to set something on fire. That is all he does. That is all his ministry is. The Bible says we have to quench it.

And then what does he mean by quench it? He said, taking on the shield of faith. We are going to get there very soon. Let's go quickly to other scriptures to be a second testimony to this.

Let's look at Genesis 15. We are going to look at all these testimonies and we see what the Word of the Lord has to say about this fiery darts of the wicked. By the time we look at this fiery darts then we practically look at how to take on the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked. We need to be armed and to be dangerous to the enemy.

Now, look at Genesis 15 from verse 1. See what the Lord spoke to Abram about in terms of his plans and purposes for Abram.

See what he says,

Genesis 15

1. After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Now, I want you to watch that word. "Fear not." Simply put that is a dart, a fiery arrow. What is the next thing that he says?

Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

You know in most cases, we always believed that we can pray down the blessing of God upon our life. And that is why this man was a very smart man in the spirit. He was Jabez. Quite very smart man in the spirit. You know why? Because when he was praying for the Lord's blessing he said, that you will bless me indeed and then you will keep me from the evil. The reason why he said that is, in most cases when you make progress in the spirit, when you are blessed of the Lord. If you don't learn how to stand as we are talking about today. Stand means to actually lay hold and say am not going to yield ground. I know am blessed, what happened is, he knows that people can actually lose out and refuse to walk in the benefit of redemption because they are not standing taking on the full armor of God.

That is when Jabez prayed the prayer under the Old Covenant, he had enough spiritual sense to say Father I pray that you blessed me indeed and that you keep me from evil simultaneously because there is no point getting me blessed and also am actually just being shot at on every angle and am just losing ground for all the blessings I have already covered.

And that is why the believer need to understand the fact that before Paul began to talk about Ephesians 6:18 praying with all manner of prayers. He taught the believer on how to lay hold upon the victory that was won in Christ and not give place to the devil.

So here we come back to this again in Genesis 15. The Lord was going to tell Abram am your reward. Can you see that? The Lord said well, there is no point rewarding you Abram if you will get shot at in such a way that you lose ground. He said am your shield. Am going to defense you now. He tells him what the arrows is. He tells him what the fiery dart is. He says fear not. It's going to come and is going to hit you but I will be your shield. I want to be your shield.

In fact, it was God presenting himself to Abram and today what we are telling you today is, the Lord is saying am presenting myself to you as a shield of faith. He said, take this shield of faith. Take the benefit of this shield of faith and quench every fiery darts of the wicked. What is the purpose of the darts? It's just to make you lose ground. That is all. It's just to make you lose every ground that you have gain in Christ Jesus. And that is why we did a transmission some weeks ago. Am going to invite you to look for that transmission "Don't pray backward."

Most Christian who pray today in the long run, they end up praying backward. We are praying and losing ground in the place of prayer. It's a bit of an irony because the reason why we are praying is because we want to lay hold, because we want to walk in this, we want to take hold of that, we want to take advantage that we have the access to pray to God. That is why we are praying. But in a strange way as we pray, the very things we say drive us backward.

And the Bible says unto Abram, God said I am going to be your reward. Am going to bless you Abram like no man's business. But you know one thing, let's shield you first from this arrow that is being targeted at you because if we don't shield you, you are going to lose ground and there is no point rewarding you for what you are going to lose again. It will be pointless. It's call going forward and going backward at the same time. That is what the Lord says to Abram. I will be your shield.

So we see again that kind of arrow that the enemy target at the Christians. Fear! He says fear not. Am your shield. And what does fear do to the believer. The enemy again can inflame. He can set fear.

Atimes it's a bit of normalcy when it comes to fear. The Bible talks about Noah, he fear to the saving of his household. There is a responsibility to have a bit of caution in our spirit and in our mind. It's a natural tendency.

In fact the reason why people, the reason why you will not cross the road and face the coming vehicle is because you fear what might happen to you. That is normal. That is natural. That is commonsense fear. The reason why you don't do something. In fact the reason why you don't engage in some activities is because you fear the repercussion. Those are normal. Those are commonsense fear.

But we are talking about when the enemy puts fire, fiery darts, set the whole thing on fire. Fear that incapacitate people. Fear that makes you stop in your track. That refuse to allow you to take hold of what Christ paid. You are always thinking, if somebody talks to you about the next line to take, somebody talk about the next thing to move into, you are always thinking what about if? What about if? And those things just paralyzes our spiritual sense. The Bible says that one has fire. It's fiery darts. That is not just fear, that is the arrow that had fire. It has make you lose control and some people even physically shake when it's time for them to walk in their destiny. When it's time for them to lay hold upon what Christ died for. They just shake. They always keep saying what about if? If I go out and I launch out that thing that God wants me to do? What about if they kill me? What about if people see? What about an expose to the whole world? What about this? All those things, they paralyze our spiritual sensibility. And the Bible says that one is not just normal fear, that is the fear that has fire. Somebody shooting something. So Abram that is a fiery dart but I will shield you. And I will be your reward.

So we see this again what this fiery darts are. So we are coming to a bit of understanding that this fiery darts actually are naturally emotions that the enemy set on fire to keep a Christian stocked in his tracks. That is what we see there.

It's good that you brought that up to dealing with different kinds of fear. Because we have the healthy fear and the unhealthy one. We have the healthy fear which you have even mentioned about Noah. He says that he moved with fear he did this. If I don't follow what the Lord said, what will happen to my family? This is the counsel of the Lord. We see Paul moving in fear to fulfill the ministry. We see the fear of Jacob, we see all those ones, the patriarch with the fear. And you were able to show for us unhealthy ones. The one that paralyzes, the one that have the fear in which the enemy inflamed. That is what the Lord tells us there.

So we see that. Don't forget again, please stick with us. We've not began to even practically talk about how the shield of faith is to be taking on. We are just actually trying to spot why did the Bible call it fiery dart of the wicked? Why does he call it fiery darts of the wicked?

Now, follow us quickly to Psalms 11 verse 3. Once we look at all these fiery darts then we will come back and zero in on this Ephesians 6:15 and talk about taking on the shield of faith to quench and put the fire out.

You can look at Psalms 11 verse 3 and let's see what that also has to say as another testimony to the fiery darts of the wicked.

You can read from verse 1.

Psalms 11

1. In the Lord put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, flee as a bird to your mountain?

That is the shield.

2. For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shot at the upright in heart.

Again can you see that? He said they make ready their arrows. This is so clear. There is nothing ambiguous about this statement. This man, this Psalmist said I know somebody shooting something. You know these days when we talk about the enemy shooting arrows. I know people pray prayers against the enemy shooting arrows at their destiny. In most cases, we seem to get it twisted. It's not actually clear. Most of us think that when people says the enemy shot arrow, the kind of picture we have in our mind is that they are shooting arrows of failure, or arrow of saying I will not make it or arrow of saying that somebody will not succeed in life. That is what you think. But anyway the scriptures has a different connotation to when the enemy shot arrows.

Now watch the arrow of the enemy. Now, the arrow the enemy shoot is not the type that most people think the enemy is shooting.

Now see what Psalms 11 says.

What does he says there?

that they may privily shot at the upright in heart.

Now watch this! Watch that. They want to shoot at the upright in heart. Now begin to contrast. That means they are shooting at somebody who has a sense of righteousness. And again, it will mean then the purpose of the enemy is to shoot at somebody who has a sense of righteousness and we normally think they are trying to shoot at the person a sense of unrighteousness.

The Bible says they are trying to shoot at the upright in heart. If you look at the previous verse.

Can you go back to verse 1 again so that people can get it?

1. In the Lord put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, flee as a bird to your mountain?

That is my shield. That is the shield of faith.

how say ye to my soul, flee as a bird to your mountain?

That means your shield, protection

Go on next verse,

2. For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string,

Now look at the fiery darts. What is it?

that they may privily shot at the upright in heart.

They want to shoot at the upright in heart. The reason the Bible mentioned upright in heart is because he wants us to know the main focus of the target. It's the uprightness of this man. The sense of righteousness.

You see if you join us in our last transmission, I think last two or three transmission, talking about the "bulletproof vest of righteousness." The reason why the shield of faith is so unique compare to the other armory. This is the reason.

The reason is back in the days when the Romans soldier has the shield. The Shield is so much huge and so big that anytime anything is shot at them. What they do is, they put the shield on top of them and it protects not just the soldier, it protects all the other piece of armory. That is why the shield of faith is a unique one because it doesn't just protect like the head or protect the leg or the belt because it is versatile. You can move it around. That is why the Bible says above all, taking the shield of faith.

We've talked about in the past where we have the target against the sense of righteousness, which is condemnation, which is disqualification. We talked about that before. Bible says we have the bulletproof vest or the breastplate of righteousness. But this particular Psalmist is saying there is something that can still be a second level, a second layer of protection against this sense.

Now, they are going to shoot at the upright in heart.

Now, go on what is the next thing there?

3. If the foundation he destroyed, what can the righteous do?

I know people quote this verse a lot when they are going to talk about the fact that you know one thing, if there is a devil in your lineage, or all your grandfathers or great grandfathers have served Satan. That means they say if they have served the devil, how can you make it? When the devil has power over your destiny because of what he has held bound in your background. They now say if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? Well, this scripture has nothing to do with such that kind of connotation.

In fact, we have said it in the past if you have watched our previous transmission. Let me call your attention to that. The Bible says in Galatians 3: 13, 14 that **Christ had redeemed us from the curse of the law**. Whatever curse was upon your family. The Bible says you are a new creature. In fact he says a new species. It means, you are disconnected from your background by the very reason of the death and resurrection of Christ. Only your unbelief can tie you back in there.

So this is not what Psalm 11:3 is talking about. Psalm 11:3 says if the foundation be destroyed. You can check verse 2. Verse 2 was talking about the shooting at the sense of uprightness of the man. The Bible is saying your sense of righteousness, your sense of uprightness is the basic foundation of your life. If that one is wrecked by the enemy, if the fiery dart in verse 2 hit your sense of your uprightness. What again? You lose. In fact, that is what disqualifies you. He says, what can the righteous do? What can he do? He has lost his sense of righteousness. He has been disqualified from the race because of condemnation. He says why, that is one of the most important parts of your life.

So he is talking about the fact that if you are being targeted by the arrow against your uprightness, what can you do? That is so fundamental to your spiritual life. And that is what he's saying there.

So again we see in this case, the fiery dart. In fact this particular verse specifically calls it arrows and we see firing at the sense of uprightness of this man. So the devil as it were will not just throw things. He will throw arrows that have fire to set on course against your sense of uprightness; condemnation coming to your heart, coming to disqualify you from the race. And the Bible says you need to take on the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked and that is what he is talking about in that Psalm 11:3

Now, quickly let's go back again to 1Peter Chapter 5. Again don't forget we are talking about taking on the shield of faith. Taking on the shield of faith.

Now, let's read the verse 7 and 8 again.

Now, watch this. What does he say there?

1Peter 5:7

7. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Be sober

Now, that is the word. That is what we are going to zero in today. Why does the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:16 invite the Christian to say if you are going to survive every fiery darts of the wicked that are being shot at your heart, shot at your mind on a consistent basis? He said I will teach you how to quench it.

Now, before we even continue in 1Peter 5:7 why does he use the word quench? It means putting out the fire. If you notice, the Bible says in Ephesians Chapter 5, he says by the washing of water by the Word. He says see! There is something about the Word of God. There is something about the faith that you actually have in what God said. Bible likens the Word to water. He said, it quenches. That is why the Romans soldier back then in the days, what they do is, the shield of Romans soldiers, is always soaked. If you have a bit to check online, you can check Wikipedia. It will tell you that their shield is always soaked.

So by the time they shot the fiery darts at him, and he put out his shield. That shield is soaked in so much water that it puts out the fire. And the Bible says the Word of God is likened to water, the washing of water by the Word. It douses every form of fiery darts. He put out the fire. He quenches. Can you see? Put out every fiery dart.

Now, let's go back to 1Peter 5: 7 & 8

See how 1Peter 5:7&8 says we should take on the shield of faith. See what he says? He says cast your cares upon him, for he cares for you. There he goes, watch what he says? Cast your cares for he cares for you. What does that mean? He is saying are you going to give the right response to what the Lord did. Have you noticed from what he said by the Word in this case? You didn't make him care for you.

Now, this is where people always get it twisted. And I think we have to break this down. What does it mean to practically take on the shield of faith to quench the fiery

darts of the wicked? This is what he means. It means your prayer, your fasting, your going to church or places of worship has nothing to instigate God to care for you.

Let's say that again, no matter what you do. I don't care how much spiritual activity you engage in. If anybody tells you that if you pray long enough, you can call God's favour upon your destiny or you can convince God to release blessing upon your life. That is unscriptural. That is ungodly. That is not what the Word of God says. What he says is, he cares for you. Not because of you, he cares of you because he loves you. The Bible says for God so love the world that he gave... have you noticed he didn't say for God so love the world because you prayed or because for God so love the world because you fasted. For God so love the world because you acted right. For God so loved the world because you acted holy. For God so loved the world because you acted perfect. There is nothing like that. For God so love the world that he gave. It was God's own prerogative. God's own decision to love us when we are yet sinners.

So listen, you are not being called to be able to convince God to care for you in 1Peter 5:7&8. He said, for he cares for you. What you should do is respond to the care. That is where faith comes in. Faith is simply your response to who God is and what God is doing. That's all you are invited to do. Every time we allow the enemy to inflame or set things on fire in our lives, it simply means somebody somewhere; you are not casting, you are not responding to the God that cares. That is what we are simply doing. That is what he says there that you need to take on. That is why the verse 7 says if you take that on in verse 7, the verse 8 is not a big deal. And that is what he is trying to tell us there.

What Apostle Peter is saying is and other one is that you can afford not to be enraged by your cares, by these things that is happening to you because there is somebody out there that is on the lookout for you. There is somebody watching out for you. There is somebody that is securing your interest.

And that is what he said to Abram in what we read in the earlier part of today's transmission. When he tell him, you can afford not to be afraid because am your shield. You can afford not be disturbed by your childlessness, because I am your shield. So you can afford not to be enrage. It's not about just the care. It's about the devil setting things on fire and going wild with emotions about these our responsibility.

We are not saying to deny the legitimacy of those needs or those cares. But you can afford not to get enrage and get awhile and lose yourself. Am talking about your spiritual self in the midst of that, because there is somebody out there that is on the lookout for you. There is somebody that maintains your lots. That secures your

interest. That is the reason why you have that confidence, you have the competence of the Holy Ghost who secures and maintains your lots. So you cannot afford to lose yourself. And that is it. That is what 1Peter 5... and all he is asking is, he is inviting you and I to respond to that. That is why he says cast your cares... can you see? This is what he practically mean to take on the shield of faith.

So don't drop it. He says can you respond to that. Can you respond to the fact that he cares for you. Can you respond to the fact that all you need for life and godliness has been provided in Christ Jesus. Can you respond to the fact that at the moment looking at this today, are you hearing this transmission today and you've been given a Doctor's report and they said that is incurable or they said you know what, you have just few days to live or you are going to die or somebody has been given a terrible news.

Listen! For every news that you are hearing today, the Lord God has his own report. And all he is asking you is can you respond to my report? The Lord is saying can you respond to what I said? Can you react or talk or can you think or can you behave like you know what I said. He says cast your cares upon him for he cares... can you see?

The reason why you can cast your cares is because he cares. It's about him first. It's about him. That is what faith is all about. Faith is not about you. That is why the Bible says for by his grace are you saved through faith. If there is no grace there is no faith. Faith in nothing. That is why we are simply saying to take on the shield of faith will then mean to say well, can you live life and talk about life? Can you reflect on life? Can you act in life like you know what he did? Like you know what the Lord said, like you know what the Lord accomplish in Christ Jesus. Can you live life that way? That is what it means to take up the shield of faith. And the Bible say every time you do that, you will put out the fire. You will quench every fiery darts of the wicked.

So as we round up today's transmission, I will like our viewers to remember that even this shield of faith that we are talking about today is actually important to secure ourselves. To protect ourselves and to protect the other instruments of defense, the other ones we've talked about. Because to keep them functioning optimally. We don't want to put too much pressure on them. We want them to function optimally. Even for defense we don't want them to blow it away. Because what is the place of breastplate of righteousness when there is condemnation and fear. You just make it useless like that. So you need the shield of faith like the Romans soldier will do and put it all around and see that my belt is secure, you can't fire through that way and that is it. Even for the other defense, that is our second line of defense this shield of faith about it.

So as long as we remember that we started this exposition today with the verse was saying above all. No matter what you are doing. We don't know how far you are in your game. Above all your and what you are teaching. Above what you have known and what you are comfortable with, above what you have been an expert on, above all take up this. So we are saying to you and leaving you with that word today above all that you have known and what you are doing or what you have been doing or what you have done, please take up this shield of faith. That is what we are going to say. Wherewith you have the capacity to put out every single fire.

In fact, I like the word, he says to quench all. I like the word all. Too much guaranteed in this particular Ephesians Chapter 6 that you will be able to put out every single fire. No miss. To be able to quench **all** the fiery darts of the wicked. You will quench every fire. You will put them out.

So this episode is about reminding you that there is a second layer of defense. Maybe you have walk through all the ones we share before about the breastplate of righteousness, talking about the belt of truth, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, take it up, not tired above all. We have another layer of defense for it. You have to take it up. You need to approach this shield and take it up that is what he was saying. I just hope you are going to take this thing, take this up. We can only hope that you take the shield of faith up.

So till tomorrow 9am UK time while we continue on this series, we do hope that you will join us. We want to say thank you for joining us today and thank you for those who have shared and for those who are all those likes, and all those come around. So we will want to live the truth, we want you to share this more further more and be watching out for our transmission. We are trusting the Lord that during the week, we are going to put in some of the messages on the page. So if you have not like our page, if you have not follow our page, we will like you to go there and follow and even share it with your contacts.

So till we see you tomorrow 9am UK time as we continue this series, we want to say as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

So bye!!!

God bless you.