INTRODUCTION

A. Paul has just challenged us to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might” (6:10).

B. In the same breath he has warned about the power of Satan (6:11, 12).
   1. Wiles involves tricks or pretending.
   2. Devil means slanderer.
   3. We do not fight a physical enemy. It is a spiritual battle and we use spiritual or heavenly equipment.

C. In order for us to fight and win against Satan we must fight with the Lord’s power, not our own.

D. To do so requires our taking the whole armor of God.
   1. No single part of the armor is sufficient.
   2. But in this lesson we will look at one part of that armor that is of the gravest of importance.
   3. We are to take a shield of faith, “withal” or “above all.”

I. THE SHIELD

A. Two kinds of shields were prevalent in that time.
   1. There was a small, maneuverable shield that the soldiers could carry about to protect themselves.
   2. There was a large shield, sometimes called a door.
      a. It covered the whole body.
      b. The soldier stood behind it.
      c. It was a board with dried animal skin stretched across it.

d. It is this second shield referred to here.

II. SATAN’S FIERY DARTS

A. They often rise from his nature as slanderer.
   1. He is the father of lies (John 8:44).
   2. He uses the voice of man to produce his products.
   3. The evidence of Satan’s use of this weapon is our haunting fear of what people will say about us.

B. Satan fires the dart of self-centeredness at us.
   1. He kept Thomas from worship and the answer to his doubt.
   2. Our doubts too often keep us from the help we need.

C. Satan attacks us with nearsightedness (2 Peter 1:5-9).
   1. We can’t see the opportunities (John 4:34).
   2. We can’t see the wonders of His Word (Psalm 119:18).
   3. We can’t see the place for us to fill (Matthew 9:36-38).

D. Satan fires the dart of selfishness at us.
   1. Our outlook becomes of this world (1 John 2:15-17; cf. 1 Peter 2:11, 12).
   2. Even in the church we see all in terms of ourselves and our feelings rather than our work of spreading the gospel to the world.

III. THE VICTORY

A. Note that it is within our control. We must “take” the shield.
B. When the shield is in place, then all of Satan’s fiery darts are quenched. They fall powerless to the ground.

C. What kind of faith is this?
1. It involves trust (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1, 6).
2. This faith doesn’t give way with every trial (Hebrews 11).
3. This faith sees God in everything (Hebrews 11:27).
   a. Power is His (3:20).
   b. He is with us; He is Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 28:18-20).
   c. Therefore, when God is in us we can always conquer.

D. How do I go about “taking that shield of faith”?

   1. We take it by consuming the Word (Romans 10:13-17).
   2. We take it by prayer to God (Luke 17:5).
   3. We take it by obedience of the Word we know (Hebrews 11; James 2).
   4. We take it by practicing God’s presence in our lives. We must live as if God is with us in all we do.
      a. How would you live tomorrow if you knew God was with you in all you did?
      b. Live that way—because He is.

CONCLUSION

A. Pray, “Grant us real faith, O God.”

B. Do you have the faith to obey God today? Have you obeyed the Lord?