



# Tablet of my Heart

Beth Jones, Christian Wife, Mom, Speaker and Writer

## **An Overview Of The Armor Of God Part 5: The Shield of Faith by Beth Jones**

**“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

**“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6: 11-18, NKJV)**

The recent tornadoes in Missouri and Minnesota have killed at least 116 people, directly hit a hospital, demolished homes, and left a six-mile path of destruction. There's still search and rescue efforts to find people alive under the debris. You can view a first person video of the tornado here.

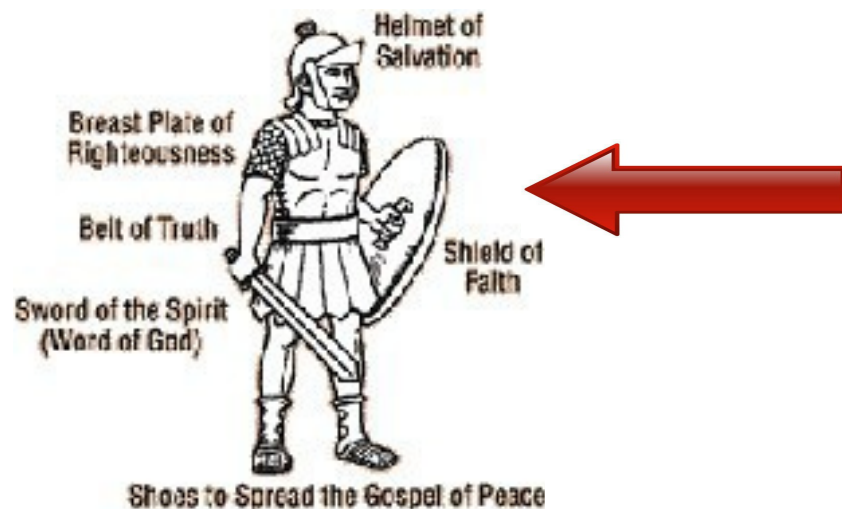
<http://www.wltx.com/news/national/article/137637/142/Terrifying-First-Person-Video-from-Joplin-MO>

I saw a video of news coverage on the tornado, and the reporter concluded with, “There is really no safe place to hide in a storm like this.”

I disagree with that statement, because God's word says in Psalm 91, “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”

God is our hiding place, our place of safety. He will shield us from harm if we have faith, obey and trust in Him.

As Christians, we know we have an enemy whose job is to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10), and it is vital that we keep on the armor of God for protection and to advance against the enemy. My last post was on the shoes of peace (<http://www.bethjones.net/the-shoes-of-peace/>) and today's article is on the shield of faith.



The Roman soldier used small round shields and large rectangular ones. The large ones were called *scutum* , were slightly curved, and were about 3 ½ feet tall and three feet wide, covering the majority of the vital parts of the body when held in front. It had a large metal knob in the center of it, which the soldier could hold to deflect the most vicious blows.

The shield was made of layers of laminated wood and covered by linen and leather, which the soldier could wet to quench flaming arrows. A metal rim covered every edge of the shield as a protection from sword attacks.

The soldiers could link their shields together. When they ran together in what was called a *testudo* or “tortoise” formation, with the shields held to the front, shields held to the side, and men in the middle holding the shields on top of them to protect them from flaming arrows, it became an unstoppable human tank, an impenetrable force against the enemy.<sup>1</sup>

God has created you to be unstoppable against Satan when you have faith in God and when you're in your armor, standing on His Word.

The shield is the first line of defense in the battle. You don't want to stop the enemy's blows with your helmet or your sword (although these pieces do protect you).<sup>2</sup> The shield is different from the other pieces of the armor.

You can't just wear it on your arm. It has to be raised and to be used.<sup>3</sup> God gives us plenty of opportunities throughout our lives to use our faith. :)

As we discussed in the last article on the shoes of peace, Satan often attacks believers with fear and unbelief. His purpose is to make you doubt God, like he did with Eve in the garden of Eden. Ultimately, he wants to turn you away from God.

Unbelief, fear, and doubt are the beginning symptoms of the rocky road to rebellion, cynicism, and disobedience. That is why the shield of faith is so important – it keeps our eyes on Jesus and protects us from the devil's lies!

Faith isn't easy because we want to be in control and we're afraid. You'd think we would have incredible faith after all God has done for us in our lives. But being humans, we struggle with the flesh – that old man who needs to die so the new man can rise. Faith allows us to rest peacefully in God's promises, knowing that everything is under HIS control. We don't have to fret or worry or try to take charge. The situation is in God's capable, strong hands according to His wisdom and His ways, which are

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1 The Great Teachings Of The Bible and What They Mean For You: The Armor of God, <http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-teachings/armor-of-god-shield-of-faith.htm>.

2 Ibid, <http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-teachings/armor-of-god-shield-of-faith.htm>.

3 Ibid, <http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-teachings/armor-of-god-shield-of-faith.htm>.

higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:9) Faith isn't complicated; it's simply surrendering and believing that God will do what He said He'll do - and that He really does know what is best for us.



### **Have the faith of a child**

Faith means we often have to believe in things that we can't see with our human eyes. We must simply trust God, like a child. But that is when faith is so powerful – and when God does the impossible!

Have you ever noticed how simply and full of faith a child prays? “Dear God, please give me a puppy.” He or she expects God to answer – and He often does, in response to that endearing, innocent, simple, trusting faith.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”  
(Hebrews 11:1)

The disciple Thomas said that he would only believe Christ was risen from the dead “unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.” (John 20:25, NLT) Jesus told him that “You believe because you have seen me. **Blessed** (my emphasis) are those who believe without seeing Me.”

Is there a situation in your life where you are needing to have faith? There are several things going on in my life right now where I'm having to exercise faith. Faith is a shield against fear, anxieties, and other troubles. Faith in Christ will quench any flaming arrow that the enemy Satan throws at you.

How do you get more faith?

Romans 10:17 (AKJV) says, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” We get more faith by studying, meditating on, and applying God's word.

We receive faith when we first receive Christ as Savior (Ephesians 2:8) and through the power of His Holy Spirit as a gift (1 Corinthians 12:9). We have to believe God to begin our intimate walk with Him, and after repentance and baptism, He takes us into a deeper, living, growing walk of faith with Him each day.<sup>4</sup>



Ray, me, and Leah at Niagara Falls

### **Get over your head deep**

God wants to take you deeper in faith with Him. “Deep calls to deep at the noise of Your waterfalls, all Your waves and billows have swept over me.” (Psalm 42:7, World English Bible)

For years I had been praying to visit Niagara Falls. I love waterfalls, and want to visit beautiful waterfalls all over the world. Several years ago I began working as a flight attendant for a small airline company, and one of my perks was free travel for me and my family. So I flew Ray and Leah to my base in Orlando, FL, and we flew together to New York to see Niagara Falls. God made my dream come true!

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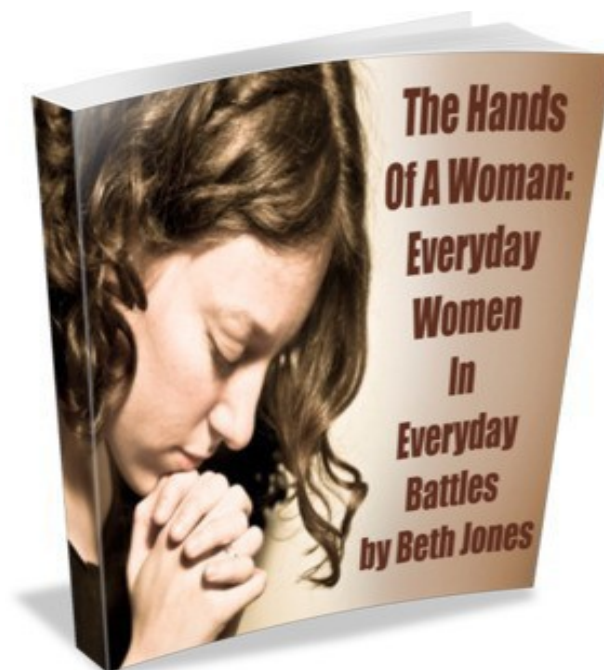
<sup>4</sup> The Great Teachings Of The Bible and What They Mean For You: The Armor of God, <http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-teachings/armor-of-god-shield-of-faith.htm>



We also crossed over to the Canadian side. The waterfalls there are even more beautiful. As I looked at the breath-taking waterfalls, the sound of it was almost deafening. It reminded me of the scripture in Revelation 1:15 (NASB), “His voice was like the sound of many waters.”

The power and energy of the falls was incredible. That is the kind of powerful faith God wants to give you – faith in situations where you're totally depending on God and having to trust in Him. Not just ankle deep faith. Not just waist deep faith. But over your head-water faith. (Ezekiel 47, NLT)

Your shield of faith is one of the most important weapons you need for the battles against your enemy, Satan. Next we will talk about the helmet of salvation.



Did you enjoy this article? Do you want to learn more about having faith in God? My new ebook, **The Hands Of A Woman: Everyday Women In Everyday Battles**, has eight women's true, inspirational stories of their greatest spiritual battles and shares how they obtained victory through faith in Christ. Right now you can purchase this ebook at **a special 25% discount and complimentary gifts**, when you sign up for my update list here.  
<http://womensbattles.com/freereport.html>.



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