

# “Trust Issues”

## Ephesians 6:16

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**Ephesians 6:10-20** “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>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 firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.      Response: ***Thanks Be To God***

### I. Faith is necessary for every moment of life!

#### **Ephesians 6:16 “In all circumstances...”**

- A. Faith is the very foundation of salvation and life itself. (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 2:20)
- B. Faith is essential to pleasing and walking with God. (Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor 5:7; Col. 2:6-7)
- C. Faith is how we endure trials and stand firm. (1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4)
- D. Faith replaces fear, anxiety and self-reliance. (Matt. 6:31-33; Isa. 26:3-4; Prov. 3:5-6)
- E. Faith sustains obedience and holiness. (Heb. 10:38-39; Rom. 14:23; John 15:4-5)

### II. Your faith must be exercised and engaged!

#### **Ephesians 6:16 “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith...”**

- A. Faith picks up where facts leave off.

**Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Faith Supported by Facts	Faith Beyond Facts
<p><b>The Resurrection of Jesus</b>  <i>1 Cor. 15:3–8; Luke 24:1–12</i>            Plenty of historical and eyewitness evidence — an empty tomb, hundreds of witnesses, transformed disciples, and a thriving church.</p>	<p><b>Jesus Walking on Water</b>  <i>Matt. 14:25–33</i>            No natural explanation, no physical proof.</p>
<p><b>The Inspiration &amp; Reliability of Scripture</b>  <i>2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21</i>            Strong manuscript evidence, fulfilled prophecy, and historical consistency.</p>	<p><b>Creation by the Word of God</b>  <i>Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:1ff</i>            No eyewitnesses, no scientific test can recreate it.</p>

B. Faith is active!

*Hebrews 11, the “Hall of Faith,” isn’t just a museum of belief.  
 Every “By faith...” is followed by action — all 19 times!*

### III. When the arrows start flying, you’re not unequipped — faith was made for this!

**Ephesians 6:16** “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one...”

#### 5 Lies Faith Puts Out Before They Burn In

1. **Doubt** — “Did God really say...?”

**1 Thessalonians 5:24** “He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.”

2. **Fear** — (**F**alse **E**vidence **A**ppearing **R**eal) — “You’re not safe—not even with God.”

**Psalms 56:3** “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

3. **Temptation** — “No one will ever know.”

**Genesis 16:13** “... ‘You are a God of seeing... Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me.’”

4. **Shame** — “How could you?”

**Romans 8:1** “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

5. **Distraction** — “God can wait. This can’t.”

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

**This week** → Read Ephesians 6:10-20 every day (preferably aloud, preferably in the morning before your feet hit the floor). Pray: “Lord, guard me from self-righteousness and disobedience; help me walk in Your righteousness today.”

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group discussion:**

1. In what life circumstance do you need the Lord to increase your faith?
2. When do you find yourself wishing you had more facts to support something you firmly believe by faith?
3. Pastor Peter read through so many examples of faith leading to action in Hebrews 11. How is God calling you to act on the faith He’s already given you?
4. Which of the flaming darts listed above have you seen fired your way? What other darts would you add to the list?
5. How can you help “lock shields” with others this week?