

**Using the Shield of Faith**  
**Attitude Adjusters for Church Planting Leaders**  
By Dr. Mark Alan Williams

“At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One” (Ephesians 6:16 GNB).

How does the Evil One shoot at those on the front lines—church planting leaders? The answer is that he often shoots at our faith, seeking to destroy our hearts and get us discouraged, doubting, weak, regretful, resentful, prideful, worried, gloomy and so on.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he answered the devil’s barbs with Scripture. Just as it did for Jesus, Scripture strengthens our faith enabling us to be shielded against the attacks.

Below are verses to use as a “shield of faith.” I pray that the Holy Spirit will use them mightily to protect and encourage you as they have done for me!

**Suffering—The Manna & Quail Principle:** I will not whine about my sufferings and problems like the spoiled manna and quail eating Israelites—instead like Job I will focus on God’s blessings and thankfulness in the midst of my suffering.

“Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21 KJV).

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV).

“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved” (Psalms 55:22 KJV).

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Corinthians 4:17 NIV).

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:12-13 KJV).

**Strength—The Grasshopper Principle:** I will not doubt that God can provide strength for the task like the ten Israeli spies—instead like Joshua and Caleb I will believe in God’s power through me and determine to overcome in His strength.

“Caleb calmed down the crowd and said, ‘Let’s go and take the land. I know we can do it!’ But the other men replied, ‘Those people are much too strong for us.’ Then they started spreading rumors and saying, ‘We won’t be able to grow anything in that soil. And the people are like giants. In fact, we saw the Nephilim who are the ancestors of the Anakim. They were so big that we felt as small as grasshoppers’” (Numbers 13:30-33 CEV).

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13 KJV).

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31 KJV).

**Time & Over-busy—The Mary & Martha Principle:** I will not be irritable about having too much to do like Martha—instead like Mary I will focus on God’s love and Jesus’ light and easy burden.

“The Lord answered, ‘Martha, Martha! You are worried and upset about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:41-42 CEV).

“Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV).

“No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he’ll never let you be pushed past your limit; he’ll always be there to help you come through it” (1 Corinthians 10:13 The Message).

**Regrets—The Goal Line Principle:** I will not focus on the mistakes I regret and cannot change—instead like Paul I will focus and work on the things I can change as I “press on toward the mark.”

“Jesus answered, ‘Anyone who starts plowing and keeps looking back isn't worth a thing to God's kingdom’” (Luke 9:62 CEV)!

“My friends, I don't feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done” (Philippians 3:13-14 CEV).

“How far has the LORD taken our sins from us? Farther than the distance from east to west” (Psa 103:12)!

“But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away” (1 John 1:9 CEV).

**Challenges—The Mustard Seed Principle:** I will not concentrate on the seeming “impossibility” of mountain-sized challenges—instead I will concentrate on having faith as a mustard seed.

“But I can promise you this. If you had faith no larger than a mustard seed, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there. And it would. Everything would be possible for you” (Matthew 17:20b CEV).

“And he said, ‘The things which are impossible with men are possible with God’” (Luke 18:27 KJV).

**Contentment—The Food & Raiment Principle:** I will not focus on what I would like to have, should have or used to have—instead like Paul I will be content with the simple necessities of “food and raiment.”

“For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:7-8 KJV).

“I've learned to be content in whatever situation I'm in. I know how to live in poverty or prosperity. No matter what the situation, I've learned the secret of how to live when I'm full or when I'm hungry, when I have too much or when I have too little. I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11b-13 GW).

“For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly” (Psalms 84:11 KJV).

**Pride—The Thorn-in the-Flesh Principle:** I will not despise my weaknesses—instead I will be grateful for them because they keep me humble and when I am weak, He is strong.

“Of course, I am now referring to the wonderful things I saw. One of Satan's angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud. Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away. But he replied, ‘My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.’ So if Christ keeps giving me his power, I will gladly brag about how weak I am. Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated or to have troubles and sufferings, if it is for Christ. Because when I am weak, I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10 CEV).

“But God chose what the world considers nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame” (1 Corinthians 1:27 GW).

**Wrong Thinking—The Captive Thought Principle:** I will not allow negative, doubting or other toxic thoughts to ooze into my thinking—instead, I will discipline my mind to concentrate on the glory and goodness of the Lord.

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV).

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2 KJV).

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he” (Proverbs 23:7a KJV).

“Finally, my friends, keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise” (Philippians 4:8 CEV).

**Setbacks—The Better Plan Principle:** When God closes one door, I will not despise the setback—instead I will believe that a problem is an opportunity and that He will open a better door.

“For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly” (Psalms 84:11 KJV).

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV).

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my runneth over” (Psalms 23:5 KJV).

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose” (Romans 8:28 KJV).

**Vision—The Dreams & Visions Principle:** I will not try to stumble through life without vision—instead, I will live by inspiring dreams, visions and goals.

“Where there is no vision the people perish” (Pro 29:18).

“Then the LORD told me: ‘I will give you my message in the form of a vision. Write it clearly enough to be read at a glance. At the time I have decided, my words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting-- it will happen! ‘I, the LORD, refuse to accept anyone who is proud. Only those who live by faith are acceptable to me’” (Habakkuk 2:2-4 CEV).

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20 KJV).

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7 KJV).

**Worry—The Perfect Peace Principle:** I refuse to worry—instead I will do all I can to change things for the good and then with a thankful heart I will pray for God to resolve each difficult situation.

“The LORD gives perfect peace to those whose faith is firm” (Isaiah 26:3 CEV).

“Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God” (Philippians 4:6 CEV).

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim 1:7 NKJV).

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:9 KJV).

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4 KJV).

“What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us” (Romans 8:31 KJV)?

**Gloomy—The Joy of the Lord Principle:** I will not focus on my downs—instead I will focus upward, so that “the joy of the Lord is my strength” (Nehemiah 8:10b KJV).

“Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matthew 5:12 KJV).

“Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4 KJV).

“Rejoice evermore” (1 Thessalonians 5:16 KJV).

“You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express” (1 Peter 1:8 GNB).

“For God's Kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of the righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives” (Romans 14:17 GNB).

“But the Lord's followers in Antioch were very happy and were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 13:52 CEV).

**Aging—The Life Perspective Principle:** I will not despise the losses of getting older—instead, I will rejoice that I have the opportunity to serve the Lord in this life and then go to heaven's eternal joy.

“For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep” (Acts 13:36a NIV).

“I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us” (Romans 8:18 CEV).

“Teach us how short our life is, so that we may become wise” (Psalms 90:12 GNB).

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16 KJV).

“For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1 KJV).

“Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of his saints” (Psalms 116:15 KJV).

“They will never hunger or thirst again, and they won't be troubled by the sun or any scorching heat. The Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to streams of life-giving water, and God will wipe all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 7:16-17 CEV).