

half believe the truths we profess, and only half trust in the assurance of the God of truth, we are weak against the assaults of the enemy, and are easily induced to give way. But if those unseen things which we have believed and trusted—the great truths of our redemption and coming glory—are real to us, if our faith makes them living facts, how strong we feel. The fiery darts will be hurled at us from every side, but if we turn toward them our shield, the certain conviction of the reality of the invisible things, the enemy's darts fall upon it, and are "quenched." Satan has no dart that can pierce through faith. It is only when for a moment faith is removed, that his arrows touch us. Therefore the shield of faith is to be "taken up." By our own voluntary act, we are to take it, and oppose it to the enemy's attacks.

5. *And take the helmet of salvation.* It is worthy of note that the word "take" here, is not the same word as that used in the preceding verse. The word there means to actively seize and use. Thus we are to "take up" the shield. But here the word means to receive, accept, or welcome as a gift. Let us see how it applies to the helmet.

The head of the soldier would appear above the shield, and would be still exposed, and would therefore need its own protection. So it often happens that one whose faith accepts the reality of unseen things, and knows that they are true to the saved children of God, is nevertheless disturbed by doubts as to whether he is one of the saved. He asks: "Have I believed? have I saving faith?" Thus the head, a vital part, is exposed above the shield. What shall such do? Cover the head by accepting or welcoming the free gift of salvation. Let him appropriate