

Anointed Shield of Faith

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Sermon Synopsis

This episode of *World Impact*, recorded at an Empowered21 regional congress in London, features Dr. Billy Wilson delivering a message titled “Anoint the Shield,” drawn from the vivid imagery of Isaiah 21:5. In this teaching, Dr. Wilson explores the biblical command to “anoint the shield” as a metaphor for cultivating a Spirit-empowered faith—one that is not only protective but active, resilient, and continually renewed by the Holy Spirit. He explains that just as ancient soldiers would oil their shields to keep them strong and flexible in battle, believers must keep their faith anointed through prayer and the Spirit’s presence to withstand life’s.

Dr. Wilson connects this theme to the armor of God described in Ephesians 6, emphasizing faith as both defense and offense in the spiritual life. Through the image of the Roman *testudo* formation—where interlocked shields formed an unbreakable wall—he illustrates how faith and unity within the body of Christ create a collective strength against opposition. This unity, he notes, is central to the mission of Empowered21, which envisions every person on Earth having an encounter with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit by Pentecost 2033.

The message also draws inspiration from historical revivals, including the Hebrides Islands awakening of the 20th century, sparked by two elderly women whose prayer and steadfast faith helped bring renewal to an entire community. These stories highlight how faith—anointed and steadfast—can change the course of families, churches, and nations. Dr. Wilson reminds believers that the enemy’s greatest target is their faith, echoing the perseverance of Job, who trusted God even when everything else was stripped away.

Concluding with a heartfelt appeal, Dr. Wilson urges believers to seek a deeper empowerment from the Holy Spirit, continually “anointing the shield” through prayer, worship, and unity with fellow believers. This anointed faith, he explains, gives strength to advance God’s Kingdom with courage and hope. The episode offers a vision for a vibrant, united, Spirit-filled Church—one equipped to stand firm, move forward, and bring transformation to the world.

Sermon Highlights

- Anointed Faith is Vital: The sermon emphasizes the necessity of anointed faith—faith empowered and covered by the Holy Spirit, like an oiled shield—that quenches all the fiery darts of the enemy and withstands spiritual battles.
- The Shield of Faith as Defense and Offense: Faith acts as both a protection from Satan's attacks and as a weapon to push back and knock the enemy off balance, enabling believers to take territory for God's Kingdom.
- Unity in Faith is Unstoppable: When believers unite their faith, protecting one another with faith as in the Roman 'tortoise' shield formation, they become spiritually unstoppable, advancing the Kingdom of God together.
- Resilience in Faith is Essential: Believers must maintain a tough, resilient faith that does not back down, quit, or become brittle like an undependable shield. Faith must be persistently anointed and actively exercised despite trials.
- The Call to a Global Harvest: The Empowered21 movement aims for every person on Earth to have an authentic encounter with Jesus Christ by Pentecost 2033, calling all Spirit-empowered Christians to share the gospel in power and unity.

Scripture Verses

Isaiah 21:5

"Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink; arise, you princes, and anoint the shield."

Isaiah 21:5 (NIV)

"Get up, you officers, oil the shield!"

2 Samuel 1:21

"The mighty men have fallen, and the weapons of war are perished." (Context: David speaking about Saul and Jonathan, mentioning "For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul--no longer rubbed with oil.")

Genesis 15:1

"After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Psalm 3:3

"But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high."

Psalm 18:2

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Ephesians 6:12-13

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Ephesians 6:16

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

Matthew 18:19

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

1 John 5:4

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

Job 13:15

"Though he slay me, yet I will hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face."

Job 13:16

"This will be my salvation, for now I will go to him, but afterward he will no longer come to me."

Job 1:21

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

Quotes

- "When Saul lost his anointing, he lost his protection, he lost his shield, and he lost his life." - Billy Wilson
- "Faith is not just a defensive weapon, but faith is also an offensive weapon." - Billy Wilson
- "We need a tough kind of resilient faith that doesn't back up and doesn't cower down and doesn't quit when it gets tough but stands up, knocks the enemy off of balance, and establishes the kingdom of God." - Billy Wilson
- "When we unite faith with faith, with faith, with faith, when we protect our brother with faith, when we protect our sister with faith, when we protect our children with faith, we become unstoppable for the glory of God." - Billy Wilson
- "Job found out what the devil was after was not his health, and what the Devil was really after was not his children and was not his money, but what the devil was really after in Job's life was his faith." - Billy Wilson

Bible Study

Objectives

- Understand the biblical principle of 'anointing the shield' as a metaphor for strengthening faith.
- Recognize the importance of a Spirit-empowered, aggressive, and resilient faith in spiritual warfare.
- Explore how collaborative faith can overcome strongholds and bring revival.
- Apply the lessons from the lives of biblical characters and modern examples to personal faith.
- Commit to cultivating a daily, anointed faith that can quench the fiery darts of the enemy.

Reading and Reflections

- Isaiah 21:5 – 'Get up, you officers, oil the shield!'
- Psalm 18:2 – 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.'
- Ephesians 6:16 – 'In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.'
- 1 John 5:4 – 'This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.'
- Job 13:15 – Despite loss and suffering, Job declares that the devil will never get his faith.

Key Observations

- The 'shield' symbolizes the protection and defense faith offers against spiritual attacks.
- Anointing the shield involves intentionally strengthening and freshening our faith through the Holy Spirit.
- Unanointed faith becomes brittle and vulnerable, as seen in the fall of Saul when he 'lost the oil on his shield.'
- Faith is not only defensive but also offensive—like a Roman soldier's shield used to knock the enemy off balance.
- Unity and collaboration—'locking shields' in faith—make believers unstoppable in spiritual warfare.
- True victory is won and maintained through resilient, active faith that does not quit under pressure.

Personal Reflections

- In what ways have I experienced my faith becoming 'brittle' and in need of renewal and anointing?
- How can I daily invite the Holy Spirit to 'oil' and empower my shield of faith?
- Do I live with a passive faith or an aggressive faith that trusts God to move on my behalf?

- How am I engaging with fellow believers to form a united shield to face spiritual challenges?
- Am I prepared to stand firm when life's fiery darts come, knowing that faith is my victory?

Lessons for Daily Life

- Regularly nourish and strengthen your faith through prayer, Scripture reading, and fellowship.
- Trust the Lord as your shield and refuge in every circumstance, especially during spiritual or life battles.
- Fight back against doubt, fear, and discouragement with bold declarations of faith.
- Seek unity with other believers to build a spiritual community that supports and protects each other.
- Remember that faith is both protection and power—it shields us and enables us to advance God's kingdom.

Practical Applications

- Start a daily practice of anointing your faith by asking the Holy Spirit to renew and empower your spiritual shield.
- Engage in faith conversations with fellow believers, intentionally 'locking shields' to stand strong together.
- Write down promises from Scripture that strengthen your faith and meditate on them when attacked by doubt.
- Look for opportunities to lead or participate in prayer and intercession groups to stand against spiritual strongholds.
- Model an aggressive, faith-filled attitude in your workplace, family, and social circles by praying and speaking boldly.

Challenges for the Week

- Identify an area of your life where your faith feels weak or under attack and commit to 'anointing' that shield with prayer.
- Reach out to a believer you haven't connected with recently to pray together and encourage one another in faith.
- Practice standing firm by speaking aloud a declaration of God's protection and victory over your life daily.
- Take opportunity to share testimonies or stories of God's power working through faith in your life or community.
- Ask the Holy Spirit daily for an aggressive faith that knocks the enemy off balance and pushes forward in God's kingdom.

Further Study

- Study the Armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18 to deepen understanding of the shield of faith and other spiritual weapons.
- Read about the life of King Saul in 1 Samuel 31 and David's lament in 2 Samuel 1 to explore consequences of losing anointing.
- Examine the revival in the Hebrides and the role of prayerful, faithful believers in spiritual breakthroughs.
- Reflect on Job's steadfast faith despite loss and hardship (Job chapters 1-2, 13).
- Explore Acts chapter 2 and the empowering of the early church by the Holy Spirit as an example for today.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I come before You recognizing that You are my shield, my refuge, and my strength. Lord, anoint my faith by Your Holy Spirit—oil my spiritual shield so that it becomes strong, resilient, and effective against every fiery dart of the enemy. Help me to stand firm with boldness, not backing down in the face of opposition but advancing Your Kingdom with aggressive faith. Unite me with fellow believers so we may support and protect one another, becoming unstoppable for Your glory. May my faith be a testimony that brings revival and hope to those around me. In Jesus' mighty name, I pray. Amen.

Daily Devotionals

Day 1

Scripture Verse

Isaiah 21:5 - "Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink; arise, you princes, and anoint the shield." (NIV)

Reflection

Imagine a soldier preparing for battle in ancient times. His sword is sharp, but what about his shield? The shield was not just a piece of wood covered in leather; it was carefully moistened and anointed with oil to make it resilient and strong enough to deflect fiery darts and withstand enemy blows. Without this anointing, the shield became brittle and easily broken, leaving the soldier vulnerable. This is the spiritual lesson the Lord wants us to take to heart. Our faith is like that shield, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit is the oil that strengthens it. Billy Wilson reminds us through his message from Isaiah 21:5 that as believers in the 21st century, we are called to have anointed faith — faith that is resistant to the fiery attacks of the enemy and aggressive enough to push Satan back.

The story of King Saul highlights this point. When Saul's shield was no longer anointed, it became easy for the enemy to overpower him, and ultimately, he lost his life. Our protection comes not from our own strength but from the active, living anointing of God through the Holy Spirit. Consider this: How often do we get spiritually dry and neglect nourishing our faith with prayer, the Word, and the Spirit's empowerment? Spiritual dryness leaves us exposed, vulnerable to attacks and discouragement. But when we regularly 'oil the shield,' we keep our faith flexible, strong, and capable of deflecting the 'fiery darts'—those doubts, temptations, fears, and discouragements the enemy launches at us daily.

Let's think about a real-life example. Picture a person who, despite trials at work, family struggles, or health challenges, maintains a constant attitude of trust in God. Their faith isn't passive but active—praying fervently, worshiping, and standing on God's promises. Their shield is anointed, and they resist the enemy's attempts to shake their confidence. Because their faith is fresh and anointed, they stand firm and eventually see victory. Today, as you reflect, ask yourself: Is my shield well-oiled? Is my faith actively anointed by the Holy Spirit? Where do I need to allow God to refresh and strengthen my defense? The Lord calls you to 'arise and anoint the shield.' It's a call to prepare spiritually for the battles ahead with a faith that is alive, vibrant, and empowered. Let this verse serve not only as a reminder but as a command to actively steward your spiritual life.

Prayer

Lord God, I ask You now to anoint my shield of faith. Refresh my soul and empower me through Your Holy Spirit to stand strong and resilient. Protect me from the fiery darts of the enemy and help me to advance Your kingdom boldly. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2

Scripture Verse

Ephesians 6:16 - "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (NIV)

Reflection

The Apostle Paul paints a vivid picture of spiritual warfare: we don't wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in the unseen realm. This battle requires more than just standing—it demands the whole armor of God, especially the shield of faith. The shield doesn't just protect; it's an offensive weapon that extinguishes the flaming arrows of the evil one. Think about the Roman soldier's shield described by Billy Wilson—large, strong, and with a pointed bottom that could knock an enemy off balance.

Our shield of faith works the same way. It doesn't only defend; it actively disrupts the schemes of the enemy. Imagine a time in your life when you were attacked by worry, fear, or spiritual discouragement. Did you only try to defend yourself passively, or did you boldly counterattack with faith, speaking God's promises, praying fervently, and standing firm? A striking example from the sermon was the two elderly women in the Hebrides, one blind and the other crippled, who prayed relentlessly. Their resilient faith knocked the enemy off balance and paved the way for a mighty revival. Their story challenges us to harness the power of persistent, anointed faith regardless of our circumstances or age. Faith is not a weak or passive feeling; it's a powerful weapon, a shield that protects and advances the kingdom of God. In the daily battles of life—challenges in health, relationships, finances, or spiritual warfare—we are to use this shield actively.

When we confront the enemy's flaming attacks with an unwavering trust in God's Word, we extinguish those attacks and walk in victory. So today, reflect on how you wield your shield of faith. Is it passive or actively knocking the enemy off balance? Remember, faith unites and strengthens us, like the Roman testudo formation where soldiers locked shields to become unstoppable. Similarly, when we unite our faith with fellow believers, we become an invincible force for God's glory. Build your faith, and invite others to join you in standing firm and advancing boldly.

Prayer

Father, teach me to wield my faith as a mighty shield—active, strong, and aggressive against all attacks of the enemy. Empower me to extinguish each fiery arrow through Your strength and the presence of Your Spirit. Help me to stand firm and bring glory to Your Name. In Jesus' powerful name, Amen.

Day 3

Scripture Verse

1 John 5:4 - "For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." (NIV)

Reflection

Victory over the world, the enemy, and trials comes through one key element: faith. The apostle John assures us that it is faith that overcomes the world, and this faith is given to those born of God. This means the difference between defeat and triumph lies in whether our faith is alive and victorious. Billy Wilson's message highlights that the devil aims to destroy our faith because once faith is gone, we are vulnerable to every other attack. Job's story illuminates this truth. Satan tried to rob Job of everything—his children, his possessions, even his health—but Job declared that his faith was untouchable: "You may take everything, but my faith remains."

If Job's faith could survive such loss and suffering, so can ours. But we must be intentional. We need a faith that is anointed with the Holy Spirit, a faith that doesn't just believe 'some day' or 'maybe,' but a NOW kind of faith—a faith that acts, prays, trusts and surrenders in the present moment. Think about the moments in your life when your faith was tested. Did you shrink back or rise with resilient faith? The difference lies in keeping the shield well-oiled—feeding your faith daily with prayer, Scripture, worship, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit. This ongoing anointing makes you spiritually tough, just like the leather on a war shield that resists cracking under pressure. Consider your current challenges.

What is assaulting your faith? Is it uncertainty about the future? Is it fear, exhaustion, or disappointment? Remember, the victory is already yours through faith in Christ. Stand firm with an anointed shield, and the enemy's attacks will be quenched. Finally, embrace community. Just as the Roman shield formation was unstoppable because the soldiers protected one another, your faith grows stronger when connected with fellow believers. Together you form a fortress that nothing can penetrate. Let today be a commitment to an aggressive, persistent, resilient faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, ready to overcome any challenge and advance the kingdom of God.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, strengthen my faith so it may overcome every battle and trial. Help me to keep my shield anointed and my trust active, no matter the circumstances. Let Your Spirit empower me to live boldly and victoriously in Your Name. Amen.

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