

## DECEPTION AND FALSE TEACHING

2 Timothy 4:3-4: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

The enemy may introduce false doctrines, distorted interpretations of Scripture, or misleading ideologies to confuse and divide believers.

## PRIDE AND SELFISH AMBITION:

Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

James 3:16: "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice."

The enemy promotes pride and self-centeredness, encouraging individuals to pursue their own interests above the unity and well-being of the community.

## GOSSIP AND SLANDER:

Proverbs 16:28: "A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer

separates close friends."

James 4:11: "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge."

The enemy often fuels gossip, slander, and malicious talk among believers, spreading rumors and damaging relationships within the community.

## DOUBT AND DISCORDANT VOICES:

1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

James 1:8: "He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Through doubt and the introduction of conflicting opinions, the enemy seeks to undermine trust in God's Word and foster disagreements that lead to division.

## FIERY ARROWS

## OFFENSE AND UNFORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14-15: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Ephesians 4:31-32: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

By provoking offense, the enemy can cause bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness among believers, leading to fractured relationships and division..

## JEALOUSY AND COMPARISON:

1 Corinthians 3:3: "For you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?"

Galatians 5:26: "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

The enemy instigates jealousy and comparison, leading to envy, competition, and a lack of support and cooperation among believers.

## DISUNITY OVER SECONDARY ISSUES:

Romans 14:1: "As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions."

1 Corinthians 3:4-5: "For when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not being merely

The enemy may magnify disagreements over non-essential doctrines or secondary issues, causing division within the body of believers.



TAKE UP THE  
SHIELD OF FAITH,  
WITH WHICH  
YOU WILL BE  
ABLE TO QUENCH  
ALL THE FIERY ARROWS  
OF THE EVIL ONE





## UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS

The Shield of Faith, mentioned in Ephesians 6:16, plays a significant role in promoting unity among believers in defending against fiery arrows. We

## PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This urges believers to "not be anxious about anything" but to bring their requests to God in prayer. Through prayer and intercession, believers can uplift and support one another, fostering unity and protection against spiritual attacks.

## SHARED BELIEFS AND VALUES:

Ephesians 4:4- is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

This emphasizes the importance of believers being united in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Sharing common beliefs and values strengthens unity as believers stand together in their faith.

## DISCERNMENT AND PROTECTION:

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22: "But test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

This encourages believers to "test everything" and hold fast to what is good, while abstaining from every form of evil. By cultivating discernment and guarding against false teachings, believers can protect their unity and stand united against the enemy's tactics.

## ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT:

Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

This encourages believers to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" and to gather together for mutual encouragement. Through support and encouragement, believers can strengthen one another's faith and stand united.

## SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Galatians 6:1-2: "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

This highlights the role of believers in restoring one another and bearing each other's burdens. By holding one another accountable to God's Word, believers can defend against the attacks of the enemy and remain united in faith.

## SHARED MISSION AND PURPOSE:

Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Known as the Great Commission, emphasizes the mission of making disciples of all nations. Believers' shared purpose in spreading the Gospel creates unity as they work together to fulfill this mission.





### AFFIRMATION

**I AM STRONG IN MY FAITH, AND I  
CONFIDENTLY HOLD UP THE SHIELD OF  
FAITH TO EXTINGUISH ALL DOUBTS AND  
ATTACKS FROM THE ENEMY.  
I TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES AND HIS  
FAITHFULNESS.**

### SCRIPTURE WRITING

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### REFLECTION / JOURNALING PROMPT

:1. Reflect on a recent conflict or disagreement within your faith community or among fellow believers. How did it impact the unity and effectiveness of your collective witness? What lessons did you learn from that experience, and how can you apply those lessons to promote greater unity and understanding in the future?

2. Think about a time when you felt spiritually supported and encouraged by your faith community. What actions or words from others made a significant impact on your faith journey? How can you actively contribute to creating a culture of encouragement and support within your faith community, uplifting others and fostering a sense of unity and solidarity?

### PROMISES

**Matthew 18:20** Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

**Psalms 133:1** How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! -

**Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. -

**Ephesians 4:3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.-