



# When the Arrow Strikes

## EPHESIANS 6:10-18

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When an arrow pierces its target, it hurts more than just the surface. Pulling it out becomes even more damaging than the initial impact. The skin and whatever organs are immediately behind it are wounded beyond repair.

But the front of the tip is not the most dangerous part of the arrow. The front makes a clean cut, and if this was the primary injury, only a few stitches would be needed to recover. Assuming there was no infection, the area would be left with a scar and otherwise unchanged after healing. But arrows are much more deadly, not because of the tip but because of what comes after.

The back catches after it goes in, macerating what was a clean cut, turning it from a simple laceration into a deadly wound. Any hope of repair is destroyed as this damage takes place. Healing is possible, but only with more extreme measures such as transplant or removal of the affected area altogether.

Paul speaks of our fight in a spiritual battleground in Ephesians 6:10-18. Satan shoots his flaming arrows at us, and we can protect ourselves from them with a Shield of Faith. Although the imagery is not literal, this battle is real. We fight an enemy who is actively working to steal, kill, and destroy us. His arrows may not always be physical, but the impact of his weapons are just as harmful to our mind, body, and soul as arrows would be.

Paul mentions the weapons we yield and the armor we wear as tools we can use for spiritual battles. The shield - which is our faith - actually diminishes the work of evil. Growing in our faith loosens the grip Satan has on the bow. God fights for us, and faith in him is our responsibility in this fight. As we grow in our faith, we grow in our protection.

By the grace of God, healing and redemption is possible even if the arrows pierce us, causing pain and leaving scars. Perhaps the fire that's meant to destroy can actually cauterize the wound? God has the power to turn what was meant for evil and use it for our good (Genesis 50:20). He can use the flaming tips to cauterize the injury, preventing more damage and beginning the healing process immediately upon impact. In the moments we are struck when our shield is down, not all hope is lost. Healing can still come, and instead of bleeding out, we can be restored.

We can win the battle. In fact, Jesus already did. Even if our shields fail us, the Great Physician won't.

