

## THE SHIELD OF FAITH (2)

By Keith Greer

**“The Silence of God.** “Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’--to whom we gave no such commandment.” {Acts 15:24} Every sort of presumptuous sin has been accepted using the lame excuse, “the Bible doesn’t say we can’t.” This faulty reasoning has opened the flood gates to every imaginable kind of new invention that mankind can come up with. Long ago, Solomon spoke of such reasoning, “Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.” {Ecclesiastes 7:29} Our modern-day religious friends brush away criticisms of their departures with their teaching that silence gives consent. Yet, God’s word answers this false assertion in many different ways. “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.” {2 Peter 1:3} If His Divine power has given us “ALL things that pertain to life and godliness,” did God forget to mention all these extra things? Long ago, under the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, Paul wrote that whatever we do “without faith” is sin {Romans 14:23}. This means that any action for which there is no book, chapter, and verse (a thus saith the Lord) is without Divine authority. Paul later added that the word would “thoroughly furnish us for every good work.” {2 Timothy 3:17} Once again, the “shield of faith” has quenched one of Satan’s fiery darts.

**Saved by Faith Only.** “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” {James 2:17,18} Millions have been taught this doctrine, which many refer to as “wholesome and full of comfort.” Billy Graham, during his preaching crusades, ended every service with a call for the lost to come to the front and express their faith in Christ—thereby being saved. Sadly, God’s word does not contain any such teaching. In His great Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” {Matthew 7:21} He taught that the difference is in doing the Father’s will. The other inspired writers of Divine truth agree. “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” {Hebrews 5:8,9} Let us be clear; saving faith is essential to one’s salvation, but so also is obedience to God’s commands.

**Cannot Fall From Grace.** “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.” {Galatians 5:4} One of the most popular of today’s false religious teachings is: once saved, always saved—eternal security. Yet, Paul warned of the danger of falling away {Hebrews 3:12}. To the Corinthians, he wrote, “take heed lest ye fall.” {1 Corinthians 10:12} One has to look no further than Israel to quench this dart. God’s people went into captivity because of disobedience and rebellion against His will!

Sadly, the problem is not that all the “fiery darts” cannot be quenched by the truth—they can. Men are too secure in their own beliefs to compare them to God’s standard found in His word. Look

closely at the doctrines devised by men. The Lord's shield of faith can quench EVERY fiery dart that Satan hurls! This reminds us of the words of the prophet Isaiah long ago, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it to do." {Isaiah 55:11} \*\*\*