



# SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

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Tuesday, November 26, 2019

*Bless the Lord, all the Lord's creation: praise and glorify him for ever! — Daniel 3:57*

## **Deny the False Powers of the Ring**

<https://email.althahosting.com/campaigns/ws009vtfit361>

*Note — This COLUMN likely will lack coherence if you haven't read J.R.R. Tolkien's epic twentieth century work of English literature entitled Lord of the Rings.*

We are living an epic quest. You are literally breathing the story of the universe. Humans are the only entity in that universe who have been gifted with the capacity to think about that story. Animals cannot be aware of it. They are a simple and beautiful part of it. They, however, don't tell stories. We do.

Your life is an epic. You're living it. And it ... is ... glorious. You can choose not to think so. So many do. Sadly.

Don't.

Your circumstances are necessary elements in the plot. Otherwise they wouldn't be happening. Don't think for a minute that unwanted, painful or difficult circumstances mask or sully the glory of your part in the epic. They are there for a reason. You are here for reason. Think!

And as you do you will realize that dazzling luminous brilliance shoots out of suffering like lightning bolts into the gloom. The world around us isn't merely doom. Evidence of the Lord's creation is every where and in every thing that happens to us.

I think about my wife's cancer diagnosis. We are searching out the matter of chemotherapy right now, peering as deep into the literature and evidence as we can. It has been a delight to walk alongside a woman of such deep Christian faith. She knows she's on her way to Mordor with the ring.

She's accepting her fate, and refusing to put it on ... tempting as it may be. Death is like Mt. Doom. In little ways her being diagnosed with high grade serous carcinoma is like entering the cave with the ring of power. For days we didn't know if the diagnosis meant death would come quickly, or that treatment would heal.

Frodo and Samwise Gamgee emerged from the cave. Gollum didn't. He couldn't live without the ring of power. He perished with it. Paulie emerged from the cave of Mt. Doom. Her faith is strong. She's been nurturing and cherishing it since she was a child. Her quest here on earth isn't over.

God still has work for us to do together on the way. I'm so thankful for that. I love her so much.

*Continued on the back*

***Call me if I can help. 1-207-956-0819.***

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If you can't see the epic quest in which you play an essential part then open your eyes! If you can't see the path then either you're holding your eyelids shut, or it's dark outside. There's no place on earth where the gloom has totally annihilated light. If you open your eyes and seek it out you'll find a spark of light. It will lead you on your path to life.

Words are our map. They have material substance — words. Beyond meaning you'll find truth and hope ... in words.

John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

The darkest four words I've heard in recent memory, full of gloom ... doom were "high grade serous carcinoma." But, Bless the Lord, all the Lord's creation: praise and glorify him for ever! The light shineth in the darkness!

And the darkness comprehended it not.

Medical science can be helpful. It is faith in God's WORDs, however ... the language of your epic story ... that will carry you through.

Don't give in to the false powers of the ring. Invisibility, immortality and coercion won't save you. Satan is a liar whose powers thrive in the gloom.

Open your eyes and follow the light of Reason. You will discover infinite cause for praise along the way.

Amen.