



# SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

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Wednesday, December 11, 2019

*He gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless. — Isaiah 40:29*

## No More Globe Striding Bloody Repeats!

<https://email.althahosting.com/campaigns/ac078b1xlpdb7>

The West is moving beyond screens, scrolling and the internet. We are moving to the etiquette stage. We are humanizing this new fangled technology — owning it. The rules for it's use are beginning to come into focus. It doesn't seem that way because evil forces are working overtime to control it. The Left has, however, become boring. People the world over are turning to religion — real religion.

Fake religion is coming on hard times. And much of what passes for religion in the West is fake now. It isn't the fake economy of the United States that infuses natural strength into the world. The dollar will collapse like every other fiat currency before it. The world won't end. Humanity has endured countless economic adjustments and tsunamis. We'll survive this one.

We'll make it for one simple reason — God.

He is a loving Father. He is going somewhere good, true and beautiful. We are going there with Him.

The powerful prophet, Isaiah, observed about our heavenly Father, "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

His grace is the source of our strength. We must choose in every moment of every day of our lives to put our trust in Him alone.

The twentieth century's most profound work of English literature features an exchange between a good wizard named Gandalf and a diminutive hobbit named Frodo. They've been chased into the evil Mines of Moria. Surrounded by unseen booming monsters in the gloom ... pursued by the former owner of the Ring of Power — Gollum (to whom Bilbo had shown mercy) — Gandalf says to Frodo, "The pity of Bilbo may rule the fate of many." Frodo responds mournfully, "I wish the Ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened." Gandalf observes, "There are other forces at work in this world, Frodo, besides the will of evil."

None of us today can imagine the horror that confronted J.R.R. Tolkien when he penned these words. He'd personally survived one of World War I's bloodiest conflicts, the Battle of the Somme. He started "Lord of the Rings" between the Wars. He published it in 1954, writing throughout and beyond WWII.

*Continued on the back*

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Communism was rising in the East. Fascism was shattering Europe. It was challenging to find a glimmer of light to move toward in the gloom of the early twentieth century. Tolkien's light was Jesus Christ. It was his infinitely deep love for Jesus that inspired the truth he put into Gandalf's words to Frodo, "There are other forces at work in this world, Frodo, besides the will of evil."

But Tolkien valued free will in his fellow man so highly that he successfully resisted the temptation to be something he wasn't — a preacher. Tolkien was a philologist, a language scientist. Using the English language with a level of precision never seen before he achieved unmatched heights of prose and narrative. He pulled back the curtain for millions. He helped people imagine a noble world for themselves in a profoundly ignoble age. His tale made the world safe for God once again. The priests and preachers must do the rest.

Our age is threatening in more shallow — less bloody — ways. Evil is being drawn to the surface by works of art like "Lord of the Rings." Politics and entertainment are even getting in the game. More of us than ever can see the profound evil in these disciplines. We are turning toward goodness, truth and beauty. We are showing our back to the ugliness and obvious evil that's been infused into our minds by the communist propaganda of the past half century.

The dollar's weakness is a symbol of the West's angst, torpor and acedia. Yet, God in His mercy has given us a king — an orange man with unique powers nurtured by a supreme confidence. He adores His nation. He appreciates its religion. He loves the people — sometimes women a little too much. He seems to know instinctively that there really are other forces at work besides the will of evil.

He's tamed Twitter with his tweets just as he's tamed partisans with his personal insults. I can't wait for 2020. It promises to be the most entertaining and pivotal political year of the earliest moments of this new millennium. Thank God most of our conflicts aren't globe-striding bloody repeats of early twentieth century battlefields.

The future is bright with possibilities .... because .... Jesus!

Amen.