

Ephesians 6:16

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

I remember many, many years ago, back in the eighties to be exact. I had a truck, you know those mini pick-up trucks. At the time I was a car painter and had all sorts of plans for this truck. I had huge tires on the back and small ones on the front. I was working on it and had just the right color and type of paint for it. Also the big thing at the time was to chop off the tops of these little trucks, but I wanted to be different, so I had the roof cut, so it was a T-top.

I still remember the day I had it done. One of the young guys I worked with at the body shop did it for me. I could hear the grinding of the saw as it cut through the thin metal of roof of my little truck. Soon it was done, and I was so happy.

Then it was time to go home, and I got in my little truck with its new T-top cut in the roof and started to drive home. But as soon as I hit the road, it started to hail, not rain but actual hail (which is odd for California). So I am driving down the road with these little chunks of ice hitting me on the head. I still remember it because I laughed so hard at myself. It was a blast. But the reason I was hit with the hail was because I had taken the protection off of the truck, and also I didn't have the glass tops made to put on it yet.

But how many times do we go on in life and start to make little subtle changes?

Maybe going to an "R" rated movie instead of a PG or G movie.

Maybe watching a bad show on TV instead of doing something good for you and your family. Maybe you pick up your cell phone or tablet instead of the bible.

Maybe you ask that guy or girl from work out to lunch, even though you are married. It could be a harmful word against someone. They did something wrong, and you knew you just had to tell someone, at least one person. What harm could that do?

Whatever it may be that you have compromised on in your Christian walk, once you do, you are leaving an opening for the devil to throw his fiery darts at us, and not just throw them but hit us where it hurts.

Just like in my younger years I thought it would be cool to cut a T-top on the roof of my truck. I never thought about the fact that I was removing my protection, until it was too late. So don't try to be cool and be like the world, because once you do, you are removing that protection of faith.

† ***taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.***

Once those fiery darts hit you, they will hurt.

† **1 Corinthians 15:55-57** *"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*