

NAR Error #3 using Romans 5:20 (Shield of Faith)

When an NAR speaker links the idea of "*faith as a shield*" to Romans 5:20, they are forcing two completely unrelated concepts together to construct a hyper-spiritual defense mechanism.

Romans 5:20:

"The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more".

By overlaying this verse with the concept of the "shield of faith" which comes from **Ephesians 6:16**, the NAR speaker is building a very specific, formulaic argument. Here is how they twist it, why it contradicts scripture, and what Romans 5:20 actually means.

How NAR Forces This Connection

In NAR and Word of Faith teaching, "faith" is viewed as a literal, defensive energy field (the shield) that protects you from bad things, while "grace" is viewed as an empowering, supernatural force that fixes your problems.

By connecting that idea to Romans 5:20, their logic takes the word "sin" or "trespass" in Romans 5:20 and swap it out for "attacks of the enemy," "sickness," or "tragedy."

They argue that if the enemy increases his attacks against your life, God's grace automatically "super-abounds" to give you an even bigger shield and that you must actively "activate your shield" by speaking faith-filled words so that this super-abundant grace can manifest to block the sickness, financial crisis, or trial. In short, they turn Romans 5:20 into a promise that if things get worse, your spoken faith forces God's power to get bigger to protect you from suffering.

The Problem: Romans 5:20 is About Guilt, Not Sickness

When you read **Romans 5 in context**, Paul is not talking about physical protection, spiritual warfare, or managing your circumstances. He is talking about salvation, condemnation, and the law.

The Real Meaning: Paul is explaining that when God gave the Ten Commandments through Moses, it didn't make people stop sinning. Instead, the Law acted like a giant mirror that exposed just how deeply sinful humanity actually was, it caused the awareness and tracking of human trespass to skyrocket.

The Good News: Paul's beautiful point is that no matter how massive human guilt and rebellion became under the Law, God's forgiveness and grace completely overwhelmed it. Jesus's sacrifice on the cross was infinitely more powerful than the total sum of human sin.

Where the "Shield of Faith" Actually Belongs

The true biblical definition of the "shield of faith" is **found in Ephesians 6:16**. Paul writes that the shield extinguishes the "flaming arrows of the evil one".

In the ancient Roman world, those flaming arrows weren't meant to physically kill a soldier instantly; they were meant to catch his wooden equipment on fire, causing him to panic, drop his defense, and lose focus.

Biblically, Satan's "flaming arrows" are lies, doubts, accusations, and temptations. The shield of faith isn't a magical bubble that stops you from getting sick or experiencing financial trouble. The shield of faith is your absolute trust in the character and promises of God.

When the enemy throws a fiery arrow whispering, "God doesn't love you," or "You are standardless and ruined," your faith acts as a shield by trusting what God has already said: "No, Christ died for me, and I am secure in Him."

This is taking a verse meant to comfort a soul regarding our standing before a holy God (Romans 5:20), mixing it with spiritual warfare imagery (Ephesians 6), and turning it into a formula to try and control physical outcomes like a giant codebook to perfectly align phrases keep bad things from happening.