

The Armour of God part 4. The Shoes of Peace.

Ephesians 6 : 10-18. 10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15. and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16. above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18. praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

From truth, to righteousness, to peace.

Romans 5 : 1. Therefore, since we have been justified (declared righteous) through faith (in the truth), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

We have a peace that has come into our hearts through the message of the gospel. Our battle is to protect and maintain the peace that we have been given and to share the message of the gospel through words and deeds, in order to produce that same peace in the hearts of others. Oh what a peace we have. We are saved. We are healed. We are delivered from sin, self, Satans power and an eternity in hell. We have an incredible reason to be living with peace in our hearts.

Having shod our feet.

The feet represent the only part of us which is in constant contact with the world. Jesus only washed the disciples feet. As they were the only parts to get dirty while they were walking. The word shod means to bind underneath. Our feet are to be completely and tightly shod with the peace that comes through the gospel message. Wherever we go in life, we are to be standing upon the peace that the gospel has given us.

Standing our ground

Ephesians 2 : 11-18. 11. Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands 12. that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ. 14. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, 15. having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16. and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17. And He came and preached peace



to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

The gospel of peace.

Paul is talking about the promises that were given to Israel through the covenants made with the Jews by God over the ages. Before Jesus Christ came into the world the Jews had promises from God about the Messiah. They were God's chosen people. Even though they could not attain to being righteous before God, or have peace with God through obeying the commandments. In contrast, the gentiles (us) had nothing. No hope, no promises, no covenant. They were completely without the hope of anything from God. But now God has brought us into relationship with the Jews as Gods chosen people and made peace between jew and gentile. Then, as we are made into one new man and nation before God, he has reconciled us both to himself into a covenant through faith in Jesus. Both Jews and gentiles alike can find peace with God through faith.

The Shoes.

The Roman soldiers shoes.

Made of leather. Some descriptions by scholars ;

1/. Had studs on the bottom.

2/. Even nails. The shoes were designed to allow firm footing. To provide a sense of security to the wearer in knowing that the chances of them slipping during close combat were very slim.

Ancient warriors wore greaves of brass. Armour that not only covered the feet but also the lower leg. This was to protect the soldier from traps that were set to cut into the lower legs in order to prevent the soldiers from walking.

The shoes have been given to us in order for us to stand our ground. To maintain our position in life. Satan will do his utmost to get us to withdraw from the battle. To back off as the fire gets hotter. He wants us to cower from his intimidating roar. But God wants us to stand our ground. And having done all to stand, remain standing. It is satan who must withdraw. Satan must back off. Satan must cower when we decide to roar the shout of faith and victory which we have already been given through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, The Son of God.

The feet. In this context.

Question : What are the feet used for?

Preparation. This greek word is only used once in the new testament. The Position of the soldier and of his feet are one of standing in readiness, being prepared. The shoes were the preparation of the gospel of peace. The soldier is said to be in a defensive position, not walking, but standing, ready, prepared for any attack.

Peace. Greek Eirene. "I-rah-nay"

This word is said to probably be from the root word eiro which means "To Join", with the implication of prosperity. The results of being "set at one again, rest, quietness".



This would seem to infer that the peace we are talking about is not the proclaiming of the gospel of peace, but the standing upon the peace that we have, being joined together with Christ, by faith in and through the gospel of peace.

Quote : Francis Foulkes rights in his book , “You could be rich”, about the feet shod with the gospel of peace,

“many people have taken this to mean that the christian soldier is also the messenger of the gospel and the sandals of the christian, speak of his or her readiness to go out with the gospel. We have seen however that Pauls main thought in these verses is of the ability of the soldier to stand firm against the enemy. The roman soldier wore boots with strong nails that gave him a firm foothold in the battle. The christian can stand firm in the battle only as they know very surely the peace with God that comes to us only through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without that peace, which gives the certainty of God’s presence and blessing, a person is anxious and “in the day of evil” will fall.

Closer look at The Gospel of peace

2000 years ago. A host of angels visited a bunch of scruffy sheep farmers and brought with them the heart and desire of God for the world. God did not say, “I’ve had enough. I’m fed up with you bunch of sinners. It’s judgement time”.

Luke 2 : 14. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE, good will toward men!"

Jeremiah 29 : 11. My thoughts towards you are for good. Better translation is PEACE. Word is “Shalom”. Meaning prosperity, health and rest. Shalom is the greeting that Jews give each other. It is a form of blessing. God says Shalom to us.

The devil attacks in order to rob us of our peace. He is a thief. He comes to steal what God has given.

Question : What areas of our lives does satan attack in order to steal our peace?

The Gospel is a Gospel of **PROMISE**. Paul lays out some of the areas in the book of Ephesians that God has given us as foundations for peace.

1/. Peace through The promise of HIS PROTECTION.

Ephesians 1 : 13-14. 13. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14. who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The context is about our eternal salvation. From the day we believed until the day we die.

a/. Until the redemption of the purchased possession.

The purchased possession is you and I.

b/. We were purchased with Jesus' blood.



Do you think God is going to let us go after doing that?

c/. Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Our future has been sealed. The word means stamped with a signet or private mark for security and preservation.

d/. It was the Holy Spirit Himself who sealed us, marked us that we belong to Him.

Ephesians 4: 30. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

John 10 : 27-30. 27. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30. "I and My Father are one."

2/. Peace through The promise of HIS PROVISION.

Ephesians 1 : 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Past tense. We have been blessed. All the blessing of heavens resources are at our disposal. Whatever the need that arises, God has provided for it. Spiritual, emotional , physical, financial, materiel. Don't let satan steal your peace by getting you to have a **panic attack** about your **lack attack**. If you have a need, plant a seed. The spiritual blessing of sowing and reaping can't fail.

Ephesians 4 : 16. from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Our blessing is in someone else's possession right now.

vs 11-12. 11. in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12. that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

God has predestined us to receive His provision. God knows what we need before we have need of it. WOW!!!!!!!!!!

3/. Peace through The promise of HIS PURPOSE.

God has called us into His family for a reason.

Ephesians 1: 4-7. just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5. having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6. to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.



Ephesians 2:10. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Satan seeks to rob us of our peace by getting us to doubt our value, our purpose, our significance in the body of Christ, by subtly placing thoughts in our minds of us having a lack of talent, lack of gifting, thoughts of not being needed or wanted.

The truth is that we have been specially designed by God for a specific task and that God is working that purpose out in us over a process of time.

4/. Peace through The promise of HIS PERMISSION.

Ephesians 2 : 18. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 3 : 12. in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Two things God has done away with to enable us to come to Him freely and with bold confidence.

1/. Done away with the commandments. The commandments demand obedience and if not kept, create an open door for condemnation and guilt to attack us. Have you ever tried praying to God when you feel guilty and condemned? There is therefor now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2/. Done away with the old covenant ceremonial laws. The old covenant or testament was made with the nation of Israel. If you wanted to be included in the old covenant you would have to have been circumcised and become a Jew. No gentile (non Jew) was allowed into the temple courtyard. There was a middle wall of partition which gentiles were not allowed to go beyond. Now gentiles are not only allowed into the temple of God, but have BECOME the very temple of God Himself.

5/. Peace through The promise of HIS PRESENCE.

Ephesians 2 : 21-22. 21. in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22. in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

We cannot go anywhere in the world without the presence of God. God the Holy Spirit lives in us. It doesn't matter how you feel or what you've done. God lives in your spirit. He is at the centre of your innermost being. Don't worry about Him leaving you. The truth is you can't get away from Him.

6/. Peace through The promise of HIS POWER.

Ephesians 1 : 19-20. 19. and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20. which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,



Ephesians 3 : 20. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

What situation are we in right now? Nothing is too great for God to handle. The last enemy we will ever meet is death and God gave him a whipping 2000 years ago and promises to whip him again through us. We are more than conquerors through Him. We are destined to overcome anything this world and satan can throw at us. If we need a miracle in our life, God will do it.

Conclusion:

Our lives must radiate the message of the gospel where ever we go. We are to pursue peace with all men as much as is possible with us.

Romans 12 : 18-19. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Our peace must not be determined by others actions. It is our responsibility to maintain our peace, but not at any price. We are not responsible for creating it in others.

Questions for us to think about :

- 1/. Does our peace come at the expense of someone else's tears? Are we hurting others to achieve our peace?
- 2/. Does our peace come in liquid form, out of a bottle?
- 3/. Does our peace come in smoke form, through a splif or pipe or a cigarette?
- 4/. Does our peace come through any illegal substance?
- 5/. Does our peace come through prescribed drugs?
- 6/. Does our peace come through compromising our beliefs when mocked or challenged about our faith?
- 7/. Does our peace come from hiding the fact we are a christian?

This is peace at any price, in any shape or form and only lasts for a season. But God's peace is priceless. We could never afford it or ever earn it. It was paid for with the blood of Jesus Christ and is made freely available to anyone who wants it, and the bonus is, that it lasts for eternity.

