

Spiritual Warfare
“Shoes of peace”
Part 4

Eph. 6:15- ‘And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;’

God’s word trans: ‘Put on your shoes so that you are ready to spread the good news that gives peace.’

Roman soldier’s shoes were no ordinary shoes-

- **Made from brass or bronze & composed of two parts-**
- **Greaves-** a piece of tooled & molded metal beginning at the top of the knee and extending to the upper portion of the foot. Formed to fit each soldier.
- **Shoe-** made of two pieces of metal, on the top & bottom & held together on the sides by multiple pieces of durable leather.
Affixed to the bottom of the shoe were 3 – 6 inch spikes, depending on the war conditions;
- **The combination of the greaves & shoes made the Roman soldiers ‘shoes’ a dangerous weapon in themselves, besides being for their protection.**

These shoes were in mind when Paul said, ‘having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.’

Peace, like righteousness, is an awesome weapon, both defensive & offensive. Peace will not only protect you, but is a brutal weapon used in keeping the enemy of our soul under our feet.

‘shod’= hupodeomai [hu-po-de-o-mai] comes from two words ‘under’ & ‘to bind.’
Together as one word this word conveys the idea of ‘binding something very tightly on the bottom of one’s feet.’

‘Picture of a shoe that is extremely tightly bound to one’s foot.’

Paul uses this word to instruct the Christian that ‘we must firmly tie peace onto our lives.’

If peace is given a loosely fitting position in our lives, then the attacks of the enemy & the everyday events of life will knock our peace out of place, therefore knocking us off our spiritual stance, feet, position.

We are to bind peace on to our minds, emotions, like the soldier tightly bound the shoes onto his feet.

Having done this, we are ready for action-

'preparation' = [etoimasin, e-toi-ma-sin]; carries the idea of 'readiness/preparation, solidity, firmness, solid foundation.'

It's meaning with the soldier = *'they had a firm footing.'*

With the shoes tightly bound, they had the assurance that when going to battle, they were ready to march & confront the enemy with confidence in their standing ability.

For us it means when we are shod with peace we have the foundation so secure we can move out in confident faith, without being shaken by what we see or hear.

This is an aggressive peace that puts us in the position of looking directly into the face of the adversary, or a challenge, without being moved by what we see or feel, or what we may hear.

Peace'- two types of peace-

General meaning: peace – eirene, 'peace that prevails or a conquering peace.'

As a salutation: 'blessings & prosperity in every area of your life.'

1. 'Peace with God'- what a person experiences when he/she first comes to the Lord in salvation. When the hostility of the old man is gone, the new peace with God comes into being.
rom. 5:1- 'Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our lord Jesus Christ.'
col. 1:20- 'And, having made peace through the blood of His cross...you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your minds by wicked works, yet now has He reconciled.'

Peace with God- is a spiritual condition that belongs to all believers.

Experienced when the barrier between God and man dissolves & we come into harmony with our heavenly father.

2. Peace of God'- you can have peace with god, without experiencing & knowing the peace of God.

We are at peace with god by virtue of our conversion experience, but many do not walk in the peace of God.

Instead of being dominated by this conquering peace that passes understanding, many walk in constant fretfulness, anxiety, worry, & all kinds of turmoil.

This is the reason ‘peace’ has been given to us as a weapon- **it is a protective peace.**

Dominating peace

Col. 3:15- ‘Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...’

Remember this command from Paul:

‘Let (allow) the peace of God to rule (be the umpire, call the shots, decide the game), in your hearts.

Paul is teaching us there is a place where ‘the peace of God’ can begin to call the shots and make the decisions in our lives, instead of fretfulness, anxiety, worry, fear.

Another trans:

‘Let the peace of God call the shots in your life...

Let the peace of God umpire your life and your actions...

Let the peace of God referee your emotions and your decisions.’

This is where the renewing of our minds with the word of God (loin-belt of truth) comes in- the devil takes advantage of **un-renewed** areas of our minds & attempts to turn them into emotional roller coaster rides.

Even if there were not a devil, the everyday things of life alone would be enough to keep us continually tossed back & forth.

When we allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts & minds, the devil or circumstances cannot play the mind games, because we are governed by peace.

The assaults of the enemy & stuff loses it’s power over you.

Peace: as a defensive weapon-

The shoes of peace as a defensive weapon-

- The greaves protected the legs from being bruised, cut, and broken in battle.
- If the soldier’s legs were affected, it would affect his ability to fight/stand.
- Battle tactics were to run up and kick the knee, thus breaking it causing the soldier to fall down, and then stabbing him with a sword-etc.
- They also were required to fight in tough terrain where the legs could be scratched up in the thorns, briars, rocky places, climbing.

- Without the protective leg guards they would not have the assurance of being equipped to fight-could be injured by elements before the battle ever began.

Point- God may give us assignments that lead to challenging places in life. If you don't have the protective gear of 'the peace of God' you will get crushed, bruised, cut up by the rocky places & rough situations.

When we learn to wear & use the protection of 'peace of god' we will be successful on any mission.

Your emotions won't be crushed, your will won't be damaged.

How to set a guard around your heart-

Phil. 4:7- 'And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds...'

God's word- 'Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard you thoughts and emotions, through Christ Jesus.'

This peace will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus; it will keep us from sinning under our troubles, and from sinking under them; keep us calm and sedate, without discomposure of passion, and with inward satisfaction.

(from Matthew Henry's commentary)

[Shall keep your hearts] phroureesei (grk 5432). Shall keep them as in a strong place or castle. Your hearts-- the seat of all your affections and passions, and minds-- your understanding, judgment, and conscience through Christ Jesus; by whom ye were brought into this state of favor, through whom ye are preserved in it, and in whom ye possess it; for Christ keeps that heart in peace in which he dwells and rules. This peace passes all understanding; it is of a very different nature from all that can arise from human occurrences; it is a peace which Christ has purchased, and which God dispenses; it is felt by all the truly godly, but can be explained by none; it is communion with the father, and his son Jesus Christ, by the power and influence of the holy spirit.

(from Adam Clarke commentary)

'Keep' = *tereo [te-re-o]* 'to guard, to protect, to garrison.'

Picture of a Roman soldier who is standing guard over to 'watch.' for protection.

Peace of God keeps fretfulness, anxiety, fear, worry, & other wiles of the devil from breaking into your life.

Isa. 26:3- ‘you, (God), will keep him/her in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.’

‘keep’= ‘Garrison him like a soldier, protect him, guard him, defend him.’

The spikes on the shoes

Have you ever had the devil try to drive you back from believing the Word/promises/will of God?

The devil/flesh tells you:

‘It will never come to pass; you will fail; it won’t happen for you.

The spikes were to help the soldier stand firm in his position of guarding, fighting, watching over an area.

The spikes along with the peace enable us to say:

‘Regardless of what I see or hear or feel, I’m not moving!!!!’

I don’t care how hard it gets, the peace of God keeps me here and I’m not moving until the work of god in this area is finished.

‘The peace of God gives you firm footing.’

Eph. 6:14- ‘stand therefore...’

1Cor. 16:13- ‘watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.’

2Cor. 1:24- ‘for by faith you stand.’

There is a whole lot more to standing than most realize-

Majority of verses in the N.T. that have to do with ‘standing’ also imply having ‘faith.’

Hebrews 10:35-39

Vv.35-36- ‘...Do not cast away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise...’ vv. 37-39 *should be read too.*

Heb. 11: 6- ‘...without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, & that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.’

When you stand in faith, the enemy will do all kinds of tricks, stunts to throw you off balance, eliminate your faith.

Your standing in the peace of God is what is going to enable you to maintain your stand of faith.

When you have peace on the bottom of your feet, it holds you in place.

Your feet must be planted firmly in the soil of God's Word declaring, 'I don't care what the medical reports say, & I don't care what the devil tries to whisper to me—God is going to move in this area of my life.'

Only the peace of God will keep you in that place of confidence. All other voices will attempt to reason with you/persuade you to back down from the promises of God's Word.

How to have immovable faith

The supernatural peace of God makes you immovable.

When we don't walk in the peace of God, & we get hit from the enemy or with a challenge, we give into our emotions & throw in the towel. We give up ground to the enemy/ out of fear/weariness/ignorance.

There will be many opportunities to hear slanderous accusations of the enemy & people, so we have to learn how to firmly plant our feet in the soil of God's word, stand by faith, stay right where you are – unmoved, unhindered by threats & lies.

Peace: an offensive weapon-

Rom. 16:20- 'and the God of peace shall bruise satan under your feet shortly.'

'bruise' = suntribo = 'the act of smashing and utterly crushing' grapes into wine. 'the act of snapping, breaking, & crushing bones.'

Breaking bones so completely that they could never be mended, crushed beyond recognition.

Rom. 16:20- 'satan's only rightful place is under our feet.'
He has been completely subdued, squished like a grape, bones broken by Jesus.

God has already done this, we just have to reinforce it over satan.
‘The God of peace shall bruise satan under your feet...’
There is a partnership between God & us that can keep satan under our heel.

Our mission is to reinforce the victory already won by Jesus, and to demonstrate just how defeated satan already is.

It is time to do some walking

In Joshua1:3, god freely gave the children of Israel the promised land.
In order for them to possess and enjoy this privilege, they had to go in & put their feet on the ground god freely gave them.

God told Joshua, ‘every place that the sole of your foot treads upon, that have I given you.

Yet, the land was infested with giants, & opposition.
In order to possess God’s promise to them, they had to do some walking & fighting.
Ai & Jericho, etc.

These places did not want to freely give up their ownership & surrender to the people of god.

Yet when the people of God walked & fought, the walls collapsed, & God’s people prevailed because God was on their side.

The areas/strongholds in your life try to linger, hold on & defeat you; seem impossible to remove/overcome.

But, in the cross, Jesus Christ died to overcome every single one of these enemies, & their power over your life **was** utterly shattered.

Now, it is time for you to do some walking!!

Now you must go in & possess your land.

It is a joint partnership with you & God.

If satan gets in the way & stands up against you & tries to stop you, continue to march, like the Roman soldier did, & crush satan under your feet.

This is your chance to demonstrate his defeat.

With the God of peace on your side; you are a whole lot bigger than the devil.

What does the ‘shortly’ mean?

‘shortly’ = *tachos*, the picture of a large group[formation] of Roman soldiers marching down a street. It describes how they marched.

They were taught to take hard, short, heavy, determined steps as they marched in formation.

They were instructed that if anyone got in the way, or fell down in front of them, too bad, don’t stop.

Marching on the streets/roads of that day; you could hear them coming.

Battle tactic causing fear/respect from people. A warning also.

Conc:

Paul uses this illustration to portray our victorious position in Christ.

By using ‘shortly’ which depicts this stomping, pounding, short heavy steps, giving us a graphic picture- ‘if the devil wants to stand in front of you & try to oppose you & the work God has called you to, then do not stop and ask him to move.

Maybe we have spent too much time rebuking satan, instead of just continuing to obey God and marching right over him.

Just keep marching! Just keep stomping & moving as you advance forward to obey the plan of God for your life, and as you move forward in faith, do as much damage to his kingdom as possible.