

SPIRITUAL WARFARE
MISSION BRINGS THE BATTLE—SHOES OF GOSPEL READINESS
EPHESIANS 6.10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

I. SANDALS AS ARMOR—REALLY?

A. Sandals gave the soldier _____

B. Sandals gave the soldier _____

C. Sandals gave the soldier _____

Ex. Alexander the Great and the American Civil War

Sandals were _____ to the _____

II. WHAT ARE THE SANDALS?

A. Sandals are NOT the _____

B. Sandals ARE the _____ given by the _____

C. The Gospel is NOT _____ but _____

Ex. The story of Marathon. Would you rather get advice or news?

D. Sandals are for _____ (Acts 19. 10-13)

Sandals could be considered an offensive weapon. They carry the soldier into battle and help him advance—especially in the phalanx (individual and community). They provide grip to push forward and mobility to advance quickly, especially to speedily bring a message. They represent the proclamation of the Gospel message like in Romans 10.15, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

SPIRITUAL WARFARE REVIEW: EPHESIANS 6.10-20

- 1. The Bible presents a nuanced, comprehensive view of evil (World, Flesh, Devil)**
- 2. There are 3 great images for the Christian Life in Scripture:**
 - a. Race (I Cor. 9.24-27)
 - b. Rest (Hebrews 4)
 - c. Fight/War (Eph. 6.10-20, I Tim 6, II Tim 4, Matt. 11.12)—known for peace as well as conflict. You should know the power of what is work inside you? Do you sense the warfare, the battle for your soul, the compulsions to think and act outside God's will, the burning desires to run from him or doubt him, etc.? These are all spiritual battles for which we need the armor of God.
- 3. Spiritual Warfare is more than the “exorcist experience.”** Spiritual battles are for “all circumstances (6.16), the everyday moments in living rooms, bedrooms, coffee shops, etc.
- 4. Our Enemy—He infects the imagination.**

Who Satan is NOT

- **Not God or a god/not ying/yang**
- **Not Ruler of hell**
- **Not omnipotent or omnipresent**
- **Not the cause of your evil (Gen. 3)**

Who Satan IS

- **Lion (I Pt. 5)**
- **Accuser (Rev. 12.10)**
- **Deceiver/Liar (John 8)**
- **Wordsmith (Gen. 3)**

Therefore, beware of imaginary conversations, beware of lies that lead to prolonged guilt, beware of lies that lead to self-consumed thoughts, beware of lies that lead to self or other-directed accusations, beware of the desire for gossip, beware of your personal weaknesses that lead to sin like being tired, stressed, overworked, or when you build up expectations.

Do not pretend that your life and problems are only “flesh and blood.” You must “kneel in order to stand;” you must pray and realize that you have an enemy who seeks your doom.

5. The Armor:

- a. **Belt of Truth**—Preparatory and Foundational. Give yourself to the Study and application of the Scriptures. Plan to read, study, pray, meditate, and memorize.
- b. **Breastplate of Righteousness**—Breastplate covers the vital organs. Whatever is essential/vital to us is our functional righteousness. We may trust money, power, status, family, etc. but those can be taken. Jesus gives us a righteousness that can never be removed or taken. God accepts, loves, and rejoices over us in Christ.
- c. **Sandals of Peace**—The sandals were needed to make troops mobile and tough. The sandals are a readiness or preparedness for battle. We must be ready to announce the message of peace which is the Gospel.
- d. **Helmet of Salvation**—Saved from the penalty and power of sin. Guilt has no place for the confessing Xian b/c salvation saved you from sin’s penalty. Likewise, you can never say, “I couldn’t help it” b/c salvation has removed sin’s power.
- e. **Shield of Faith**—Shield used in crisis—the “fire” always means trials/suffering.
- f. **Sword of the Spirit**—Sword is the spoken word—preaching/teaching/testimony. We must prepare, expect, speak, and pray.