

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION
PART 5e-THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR AND ARSENAL
"THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE"
EPHESIANS 6:15

Introduction

We return again this week to our study of the Christian's armor.

We have said that the Child of God is in a Spiritual warfare against the devil and his demons.

God has NOT just left us to fend for ourselves. We have His very presence in our lives AND we have been provided with armor to help us withstand the devil! Our responsibility is to be strong in HIM and put on and use the armor!

The first piece of the armor that we talked about was the belt of truth! We put on this belt of truth by staying upon—that is, meditating upon and obeying the Word of God!

Joshua 1:8 - This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Last time we talked the second piece of armor—the breastplate of righteousness! We said that the breastplate protected the torso, and was worn to protect the vital organs! We mentioned that figuratively speaking, the breastplate protects our intellect, our emotions, and our wills!

We are told to put on the breastplate of righteousness, but we in ourselves are not righteous! We are sinners! We first need to become righteous by trusting the Lord Jesus as our Savior! Then we must practice Galatians 2:20!

Galatians 2:20—"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Now, tonight we look at this third piece of armor—The shoes. Roman soldiers wore sandals that were hobnailed or we might say they were cleated.

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Imagine a soldier trying to march up a slippery hill and not being able to do so because of smooth bottoms on the shoes!

Imagine a soldier trying to fight an enemy when he can't stand firm! If the soldier had slippery boots, the enemy could push him down, and defeat him!

Those of you who enjoy hunting or playing sports know how important it is to have good footwear! We as Christians need to have on good footwear as well!

Our footwear is the "*preparation*" or the "*readiness*" of the Gospel of peace!

Now we know that the Bible tells us that we, as the children of God, need to be ready or prepared to share the Gospel at any moment!

But although that is a Biblical truth that is NOT what this scripture is saying! The context here is standing! We are to be standing, resisting the devil!

We stand firm, resisting the devil when we are wearing a prepared foundation, a base which will not allow us to be moved by uncertainty, anxiety, or worry! We are able to stand firm when we are standing in the peace of the Gospel!

Have you ever noticed how hard it is to do something when you are distracted!

It's hard to listen to someone when the radio, television, or something else is distracting us, isn't it!

It's hard to do your job well, when you are distracted by problems at home!

You remember the Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge. In his younger days Scrooge fell in love with a lovely girl. Finally the girl broke off the engagement because Scrooge was distracted by his love for money!

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Well, it is also hard to stand in our fight against Satan if worry, anxiety, fear, doubt, or any other thing distracts us!

So the Lord says to us, *"Here they are. Put on these boots."*
They are the firm foundation of the *"Gospel of peace."*

I want us to look at 3 things regarding this:
THE POSITION OF PEACE...THE POWER FOR PEACE...THE PRACTICE OF PEACE...

I. THE POSITION OF PEACE!

In the last message we said that we are not naturally righteous!
We are unrighteous because we are sinners!

But more than that, before we came to Christ, we were in reality an enemy of God and Christ!

Now understand that God loves us, but our sin separated us from God and made us God's enemies! We could not have peace in our lives because we were God's enemies!

A person who is under the bondage of sin and service to the devil cannot have peace! The Bible is clear:
Isaiah 57:20—"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

We were God's enemies! But God sent His Son to the cross to die for our sins! He died in our place, the Righteous for the unrighteous! He died so we could have peace!
Romans 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The moment we trusted Christ as Saviour, that battle was over!
We changed sides!

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We were no longer God's enemy, we became part of His family!
John 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

In order to have any peace at all, we had to take **the position of peace with God**. You cannot have peace unless you and God are on the same team!

If you have trusted Christ as Saviour, please remember that you have been **given a position of peace!** God is no longer your enemy, He is your friend! God is not out to get you, because He loves you as His child!

If you have not taken the position of peace, well, you need to! Simply turn from your sin of unbelief and to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith and trust Him as your Saviour!

THE POSITION OF PEACE...

II. THE POWER FOR PEACE!

God wants us to have two kinds of peace.

He wants us to have peace with Him!

That happened the moment we came to Christ as Savior!

But God also wants us to have His peace rule inside of us!

(Colossians 3:15)

The problem is that it is possible to actually be at peace and not feel peaceful! And this is where Satan likes to get in and trouble us!

If Satan can stop us from experiencing God's peace, he will!

God in His goodness wants us to experience **the peace of God!**
God has provided a very Special person to live inside of us to give us the power to have peace!

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John 14:15-18 AND John 14:26-27

And don't forget when the list is given of the fruit of the Spirit, the list reads, "*love, joy, peace...*"

The power for peace is the Holy Spirit of God who lives in the life of every child of God!

THE POSITION OF PEACE...THE POWER FOR PEACE...

III. THE PRACTICE OF PEACE!

So, how can the Christian put on these shoes—the shoes of the preparation of the Gospel of Peace.

I think it can be summed up in three words:

FILLING, FOCUS, FELLOWSHIP

A. WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR FILLING!

Ephesians 5:18 - "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

1. How can we be filled with the Spirit?

Confess and forsake our sin!

Ask to be filled!

Then yield our life to the Spirit's control!

2. How can we tell if we are filled?

Ephesians 5:18-21

a. You'll have a new Song...(vs 19)

b. You'll have a new Satisfaction...(Vs 20)

c. You'll have a new Submission...(Vs 21)

Galatians 5:22—"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

THE PRACTICE OF PEACE.

WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR FILLING...

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B. WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR FOCUS!

Isaiah 26:3-4 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

As the Holy Spirit fills us, He guides us into all truth!

As He guides us into all truth, He speaks to us about the Lord Jesus!

As we keep our eyes focused upon Jesus, we can't help but be at peace, because He is the Prince of Peace!

Hebrews 12:1-3

WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR FILLING...OUR FOCUS...

C. WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR FELLOWSHIP!

1 JOHN 1:4-10

Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Conclusion

Ephesians 6:14-15 - "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"

THE POSITION OF PEACE—Is Salvation...Do you have peace with God?

THE POWER FOR PEACE—Is The Indwelling Holy Spirit...

THE PRACTICE OF PEACE

MAINTAIN YOUR FILLING

MAINTAIN YOUR FOCUS

MAINTAIN YOUR FELLOWSHIP