

Spiritual Warfare the Shoes of the gospel of peace.

The shoes of the Gospel peace this is part in our spiritual warfare series. We are going to talk about four different headings underneath the shoes of peace. “Truth leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to peace.”

Shoes are representative of foundation and having a foundation equates to having peace. Have you ever climbed up a rickety ladder? Remember how you didn’t feel assured of if it could bear your weight? How you felt uneasy. First of all the height that you are climbing has you uneasy...But more than anything the ladder isn’t as much your fear as falling is...And I wonder why people worry so much about falling...When they should be more worried about hitting the ground. Soldiers had this saying...It is not the fall that hurts you...It is the sudden stop.

We have five parts to talk about this evening the first thing as it relates to the shoes of the gospel peace first thing is the relationship of the shoes to rest of the armor. The next thing is the requirement of the shoes for the armor. Number three is the reason for the shoes as armor and under it five subtopics. And finally number four under the shoes of peace is the requisitioning of the shoes for battle which has five subtopics under it as well. Shoes...Is it just me or does anyone else remember growing up we only had 1 pair of shoes, two at the most. One pair for everyday wear and the other pair for Sunday school...And most of the time we only got a pair or two once a year. During the summer most of the time we ran around bare footed. Kids nowadays don’t know what it is to want shoes...they have a closet full of shoes. I remember my kids while growing up would lose a shoe and for them this was not a big deal they just could wear those pair until they found the other shoe...Whereas if we lost a shoe the world stopped. It was a life altering event, we stopped everything, asked our brothers, sisters and friends to help. We asked everyone we knew except mama. Because the last person we wanted to know we lost their hard earned money was mama.

. They are very important because you realize without shoes your feet will not form in the right manner. As a kid we would hear our parents tell us not walk barefooted too much because it would hurt your feet. The older I got the more I understood the importance of protecting ones feet. Shoes can cause issues such as bunions not having the proper shoes was the cause of issues such as ingrown toenails the proper shoes are so important for your use in the natural as it is in the physical.

The relationship of the shoes to the other armor

The requirement of the shoes for the armor

The reasons for the shoes as armor

The requisitioning of the shoes for battle

The Relationship of the Shoes to the Armor

“Truth leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to peace.”

Shoes are representative of foundation and having a foundation equates to having peace. Have you ever climbed up a rickety ladder? Remember how you didn't feel assured of if it could bear your weight? How you felt uneasy. First of all the height that you are climbing has you uneasy...But more than anything the ladder isn't as much your fear as falling is...And I wonder why people worry so much about falling...When they should be more worried about hitting the ground. Soldiers had this saying...It is not the fall that hurts you...It is the sudden stop.

Feet usually stink. Some more than others. But imagine feet not covered in the shoes of peace. The Bible says how precious are the feet of those carrying the gospel...This is referring to the feet covered in the shoes of the gospel. Romans 10:15 catches this and endorses it. Note it didn't say all feet coming in your direction are beautiful...Because some feet bring bad news.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

-Isaiah 52:7

The shoes refers to your walk. Notice I said your walk as most of the time I finish up that sentence with your walk in Christ, but if you are not in Christ your walk can be in the enemy...How, you may say...well consider these scriptures.

Proverbs 6: speaking on things that God does hate...what a strong word...
Evil Feet as opposed to happy feet!

Proverbs 6

¹⁶These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, **feet that be swift in running to mischief,**

or how about Romans 3:15

Romans 3:

¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

¹³Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

¹⁴Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

¹⁵Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Also consider Isaiah 59:7...

These scriptures speak of our unrighteousness outside of Christ... My Mama would always say to not be all up in everything because a bullet does not have a particular name on it. Far too many wrecks have been cause on the freeway after the first wreck by someone quick to look but not to stop and help. As sure as there are Evil Feet there are feet that God does approve of... The right feet and shoes are critical. Or instance why in the world would you wear open toed while mowing the grass, while farming, while working in a factory.

The Requirement of the Shoes for the Armor

Your feet are important. Your entire weight rests on the feet and your entire peace is found in the gospel which being as the gospel is compared to the feet, it symbolizes that no matter where your feet may take you... Let the gospel of Jesus go with you. But the feet without the shoes covering them are similar to your good deeds outside Christ. The word tells us he will keep you in perfect peace... That is if your mind is stayed upon Him. If your focus is upon Christ you will be have on the belt of truth, carrying around he breastplate already. Without feet it would next to impossible to stand and without shoes on those feet the protection afforded them from the elements are none. Imagine going outside barefooted and stepping in some... use your imagination. This is similar to our stepping outside into the mess that Satan has made of this world without your shoes of the gospel firmly on your feet. Feet are important to mobility and the shoes are important to the feet... The Roman soldier's shoes were As we talked about how that the belt was important because you would use the belt to hold your weapon and the ends of your robe so you can move unimpeded... The feet in the shoes are used for movement. Without feet no matter how you stuff and tuck or girdle up your robe you would not be very mobile.

The reasons for the shoes as armor

Without shoes you are ungrateful
Without shoes you are unreasonable
With shoes, you are unproductive
Without shoes, you are Unchristian
Without shoes, you are unprepared

Without Shoes you are ungrateful.

Jesus asked his disciples a question about what was really important in this life. The question is contained in Matthew 6:25. A friend on facebook quoted their Pastor as saying if you become more thankful, you would become more thankful. Without the shoes of peace on we worry about things... simple everyday things become our main focus. Not realizing that the word of God and his action up to this point in our lives has kept us. We don't appreciate simple things let alone the complex things such as

the ability of the human body to self heal. If we are fearful it is a sign that we don't trust God and if we don't trust him we are being ungrateful... There is a song that simply says... Thank you Jesus for blessing me and the song writer talks of simple blessing... How can you expect God to give you more if you are not grateful for the simple things.

Without shoes you are unreasonable.

Unreasonable is defined as foolishly defining or determination in the value of things. The Bible speaks of how important we are to God throughout it. If we are made in the image of God how unreasonable it would be to know that he takes care of things not made in his image but not the things made in his image. Look at Matthew 10:29.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.[a] 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Without the shoes of the gospel on your feet you will not be reasonable. Having the gospel in you will make you think with clarity. I often pray for those on drugs, alcohol and many other things that oppress and in my prayers I say Lord give them a moment of clarity... that is I am saying let them think clear, reasonable for just a moment at least to see themselves, to see you and to hear you.

Without shoes you are unproductive.

Without shoes you are unproductive.

In Matthew 6:27 Christ asked the question, who can add to their height by worrying. In essence if you are short before you worry, when you worry you will just be a short person worrying. Worry is counterproductive because worry keeps you in your current state. I recall while in the Army and I would come home from leave some of the same people I left on the block were still on the block complaining. If I had just did this, If I would have just did that... I could be just like you. Lord knows how many times I wanted to say, ifa woulda, coulda., You are... Anybody recall... Without the shoes you become stagnant as you have no direction. Worry serves to clog your mind up, Derailing you from activity that enhances your walk with Christ.

Without Shoes you are un-Christian.

We all worry at some point or another. But because you are worried does not make you unsaved. But the world is constantly watching you. Trying to determine if you are real, examining their life against yours. IF they see that your life is full of worry based upon what you say and what you do... then they do not see the value in being Christian and they label you unchristian. But if your feet are shod with the gospel of peace, you can stand on solid ground in the midst of an atmosphere of turmoil. Every thing can be shaky around you but the peace which surpasses all understanding keeps you grounded.

Without shoes you are unprepared.

A soldier needs his shoes to protect his feet. No matter how strong his arms, no matter how developed are his legs. He cannot effectively use any part of his body or other parts of the armor protecting his body without shoes to protect his feet. One thing that we have been promised there will be is trouble. Let say I want to give you a 2011 Dodge 300 with leather seats, dual AC, A six changer CD player with MP3 and I phone connector. It has a 400 horsepower engine and a paint job out of this world. Would you take it? Of course you would....Only problem is it takes special sized tires and guess what Dodge didn't give me the tires and Firestone, Goodyear, BF good rich, Uniroyal or Cooper tires no longer makes tires to fit it...You may say still give it to me I will ride until the tires wear out. Well that is where the other problem is there are no tires. It is sitting at my house on blocks. Though the car is fine in all other aspects, without tires it is not prepared to do what it is you need it to do. Your feet not being shod in the shoes of peace is the same, you have everything else you need but you can't move. Peter the rock said in

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: -1 Peter 5:8

Have you ever watched someone drunk try to do something that takes coordination. Dealing with the enemy take not only coordination but collaboration. Not being in Christ has been equated to blindness, stupidity and drunkenness. There is a story in the Bible that talks about a group of women who should have been prepared for the return of Christ, but they failed to plan. Failing to plan is like planning to fail. When my wife met me I had such a military mind set...I was always prepared for anything. I had little tools that hung off my belt all the time. If there was a gadget to do something you can bet I had it. I could have went on lets make a deal and he could have asked for hair from a buffalo and if it was good for something I had it and knew where it was at! I made McGyver look lost. I wasn't clutter I was organized in thought and action. Not much has changed I am still the same way...I prepare weeks ahead of time for things I am going to do. The enemy is looking for the unprepared. He is roaming looking for a crack in your armor. If he can find your feet not covered he will step on your corns, if they are untied he will tie them for you. Together that is...If he can find some wiggle room, he will wiggle in.

The requisition of the Shoes

One thing that I did while in the Army was to be what you can call a purchase agent. I was responsible for purchasing what was needed if the Army Supply system could not get it to us in a timely manner, or if they could not get us what we wanted. I actually carried a credit card with \$10K limit, you may say that not much well my limit was \$10K per month. I was trusted to purchase what we needed when we needed it. One thing I found was what I purchased better look like it belong to a soldier...It had to be pretty as well

as functional. The shoes had to have certain specifications...What would you consider important in a good pair of shoes for war?

Durable-Shoes that the sides collapse, stitching breaks and sole wears is not suitable for combat.

Grip-Good gripping soles are fundamental to good shoes especially shoes for combat.

Good Strings or buckles-If the shoe will not stay on your feet what good is it.

Right fit-Right size for you, if they are too big they injure your feet just as bad if they are too small.

Aesthetics-Though not as important as functionality, pretty does help. If you look good, you feel good...

Lets examine a few pair of shoes for their functionality...

In acquiring our shoes we must request five things.

Meet the author of peace
Mediate upon the prince of peace
Manifest the Spirit of peace in your life
Memorize the word of peace
Measure your life by the rule of peace

Meet the author of peace

Meet the author of peace-The Lord is called the author and finisher of our faith. As the author and finisher of our faith and our faith is based on being at peace with God. We must meet the author of peace.

In John 14:7 Jesus says: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Meditate upon the author of peace

Once you meet him you have to study Him. Studying Him requires a relationship with Him. Meditation is the preferred method of studying Him.

Manifest the Spirit of peace in your life

You manifest the spirit of peace by first meeting the author of peace then meditating upon Him and your consistent meditation will manifest peace in your life. Notice that some people look for trouble and those that look for it always find it? Negativity attracts negative incidents. The Spirit of Peace manifest positive incidents. The Holy Spirit is assigned to us to keep us and part of his keeping us is keeping us in sound mind and sound minds are at peace. If you are at peace with God then you should find it easy for the spirit of peace to always be in, around and through you.

Memorize the word of peace.

The enemy likes to attack our lack of knowledge. Of course just knowing the word is not enough because you have to know how to utilize the word. Often the enemy comes to you with part of the word and he omits what would give you clarity. For instance what is called the root of all evil? So one must study the word for themselves in order to debunk the lies of the adversary.

Measure your life by the rule of peace

The beatitudes found in Matthew 5...speaks of peace in this way.

Matthew 5:9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God"*

.Peace should be practiced. Follow peace with all men