

speaking to God's people

# freegiftfromgod

bible studies

Subject: **The Armour of God – Pt 3 – The Gospel of Peace**

## Scripture

Introduction

## Commentary

The next piece of the armour of God that Paul writes about in Ephesians 6:15 is:

*“...having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace.”*

The symbolism of this is quite strong and teaches us a lot about what this piece of the armour is for. There are three significant aspects of this piece of scripture. They are 1) the shoes, 2) equipment of the Gospel, and 3) peace.

These three aspects of this piece of armour tell us a lot about what we are to do and how we are to proceed. It has often been said that one of the most important pieces of equipment any soldier must have is a pair of solid boots. Considering the scrapes a soldier gets into and the terrain they must negotiate which could be as diverse as deserts, rivers, mud and snow, then the need for a solid pair of boots becomes obvious. And it is the same for a Christian soldier. They too need to have the right footwear as they walk with Christ. So let us examine these three aspects of the shoes as part of the armour of God in a little more detail.

2 Corinthians 5:6-7	<p>The first aspect of this armour to consider is the shoes. Naturally he is speaking about spiritual warfare, so we are not looking at the latest in high fashion, but the spiritual shoes that we need to have on our feet.</p> <p>Shoes suggests that we will be walking and of course when speak about being Christians we talk about walking with Christ and following the Lord and so on. And these things are about our spiritual walk. In this scripture we note that this walk is not about what we can see with our eyes, but rather what we believe in our heart as we walk by faith.</p> <p><i>“So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.”</i></p> <p>Through faith we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ as we walk with him and learn from him. Through faith we gain the victory over our flesh and over sin. Through faith we have the victory over the devil for through faith we stand at the right hand of God in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>So these shoes also rest on our feet through faith and it is important that we stand on our faith as we walk.</p>
John 12:35	<p>Now Jesus also told us that it is important to keep moving. Just as a soldier has to move forward to have a victory rather than going backwards, in retreat, we too need to continue walking forward. The reason why is shown in this scripture.</p> <p><i>“Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.”</i></p> <p>When we walk in the light of the knowledge of Jesus we are truly equipping our feet with the gospel of peace. If we stop walking in the light then the darkness will overtake us. The darkness like the enemy in a war is not stationary either. It too seeks to overtake us and plunge us into the darkness of evil, uncertainty and hopelessness so that we fall away from the truth and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To prevent that occurring it is essential we are shod with the equipment of the gospel of peace and that we walk in those “shoes” with Christ.</p>

Matthew 7:13-14	<p>A soldier has sturdy shoes because of the terrain he has to deal with. As Christians we too have to deal with many types of spiritual “terrain.” There are many ways we can be attacked by the enemy and at times the path can be hard. We see that the pathway to life can be difficult in this next scripture.</p> <p><i>"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.</i></p> <p>Here Jesus warns that the way is hard that leads to life. The cares of the world, the troubles of this life, issues with family, finances, work and the problems of evil in this world are only a few of the things we need to contend with.</p> <p>That is why the gospel of peace is so important. If you can find the place of peace and walk in the peace of Jesus Christ, then all of those outside influences will have no impact on your Christian walk. You will be able to stand in the face of opposition.</p>
2 Corinthians 5:17-19	<p>Which brings us to the “equipment of the gospel.” The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of the salvation that we have in and through Christ Jesus. The good news is that we who were once lost because of sin have been bought back when Jesus paid the price for our sins on Calvary. This gospel testifies of the work that God was doing and has done in Christ Jesus. We see it here:</p> <p><i>"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."</i></p> <p>The equipment of the gospel tells us that we are new creations in Christ Jesus and that in Christ; God was giving us another chance. He has given us a chance to be set free from our sins to do what is right, and thus reconciled man to himself in Christ Jesus.</p>

Romans 8:33-39	<p>And best of all, when we walk with Christ, no one can take us out of His hand. The power of the victory in Jesus Christ is impenetrable. It is the greatest victory of all and it cannot be overcome, and this gives us great confidence, hope and peace. Paul wrote of this saying:</p> <p><i>33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies;</i> <i>34 who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?</i> <i>35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?</i> <i>36 As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."</i> <i>37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.</i> <i>38 For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,</i> <i>39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.</i></p> <p>See how great this victory is? Who or what can take us from the hand of the Lord? Nothing and no one. There is no one on this world or in the spiritual realm capable of taking us away from the love of Jesus Christ. For that reason then we have great confidence when we stand and walk in the shoes of the gospel of peace with Jesus Christ. If no one can take us from His love, why should we fear? Why should we be uncertain? Why doubt? When we know the Lord is for us and nothing can stand against Him, then we can be comforted and have peace in any and all circumstance knowing that whatever happens, the Lord is in control.</p>
John 14:27	<p>Which brings me to the third part of this discussion: Peace.</p> <p><i>"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."</i></p> <p>When Jesus was about to depart this world he gave us this promise; that he would give us His peace. And</p>

	<p>he has done exactly that. We have peace when we look to him in all circumstances. We have his peace when we use the power of the Holy Spirit to walk in the Spirit to overcome in times of trouble and upset. We have His peace when we offer prayers, praise and worship and when we cast all of our troubles and anxieties upon him as he instructed us to do.</p> <p>It is a trick of the devil to tell us we must do things in our own strength. When we rely on our own strength we rely on what we can see, feel, hear and understand through our senses. And our senses do not give us the full picture, so we worry. And when we worry we lose our peace for our hearts are set not on God, but on the problems of the flesh.</p> <p>But when we give these things to Jesus in prayer AND LEAVE THEM WITH HIM, we have peace, knowing that He will deal with the situations. If we know He is in control we do not need to fear and so we can have the peace that He left, just as He knew the Father was in control and so Jesus had peace.</p>
Colossians 3:15	<p>But the challenge we face is in our ability to leave our troubles with him so that we are able to remain at peace. The enemy is constantly seeking to take away our peace by throwing stumbling blocks, troubles and issues in our path. But Christ Jesus has said he will deal with these things if we allow him to do so. So for us, the words of Paul are significant when he wrote:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”</i></p> <p>The challenge is to “let” this peace rule in our hearts rather than letting the issues around us take control. The challenge for us is to put into practice the words of Jesus and to take on the armour of God and especially to have, “...shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace.”</p>
	<p>Let me end this brief study with this scripture by way of reminder and as a summary of this piece of God’s armour. Jesus said it best when he said the following. This scripture sums up this situation exceptionally well and I give it to you to consider, remember and recall whenever you feel the world pressing you down.</p>

	<p><i>"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."</i></p> <p>Jesus has overcome so that in him we would have peace. Go to him and accept the peace that he offers and don't allow the world to take it away from you.</p>
So what next?	<p>This is quite a brief look at the peace of God and the peace that Jesus left us, but I hope it is enough to assist you and help you look further. I would love to hear how you have been able to apply this in your own life to grab hold of the peace in the face of opposition, so please feel free to contact me. In addition to the methods detailed below, I also now have my Facebook site running again (<a href="http://www.facebook.com/FreeGiftFromGod">http://www.facebook.com/FreeGiftFromGod</a>) and I will be posting things regularly on it from the blog as well as some of these bible study items. I encourage you to continue the conversation with each other and me there.</p> <p>So now it's your turn. What would you like to add to this conversation? Send me an email (link below) or engage with me on Twitter (@JohnBLemmon) and let's have the discussion continue.</p> <p>Feel free also to send this to others so they can join the conversation, as there is so much more I could add, but then that leaves nothing for you to say. I hope this has added value to your own walk with Christ.</p>

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