

## **The Armor of God – The Shoes of Peace**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Battle Ready

**Text: Ephesians 6:15**

A Roman soldier would wear special shoes for warfare. The shoes would provide better traction and a good **foundation** to keep them stable, secure and protect their feet from injury. An army may march on their stomach, but they cannot go forward without healthy feet. Taking care of your feet is mission critical.

One of the truths about warfare is that **proper** foot care can win or lose battles. Many good soldiers have been sidelined because they did not maintain their feet (**walk**). One of the biggest things a soldier must guard against are blisters. In a spiritual sense, a blister is a small **irritation** that causes a great deal of pain. Left untreated, that small irritation can become a large infection that can render a soldier useless. Just like a soldier must maintain their feet, a warrior in the army of God must maintain their **peace**. **Isaiah 26:3**

These shoes are not just called the Shoes of Peace, but the **Preparation** of the Gospel of Peace. Preparation is something that you do before the battle. Walking in peace is something that you must already have before you **engage** the enemy. Peace is not only something that will protect you, but it is something you are to **walk** in.

We are to have our feet shod. Each soldier would have their shoes special made to perfectly fit and form to their feet for comfort and stability. The peace that God gives to His warriors is not a loose-fitting peace but a snug fit that brings confidence that they will not slip. If our peace is not solidly in place, then we could **lose** our peace. When our peace is firmly in place, we have peace of mind and calmness of emotion.

The same shoes that a soldier would wear into battle were worn during training. This means that the shoes were sufficiently broken in so that there was no friction and undue wear and tear on the foot.

The word 'peace' in the Greek is the word 'eirne'. This word means a peace that **prevails** or a conquering peace. It means blessing and prosperity in every area of your life. By using this word Paul is declaring that, when an individual receives the Gospel message into their heart, it brings prosperity and blessing with it. This word for peace implies that the blessing of God will be so strong and effective in our lives that it is a force that removes all the former **chaos** we once knew and leaves us with a peace that prevails in every area of our lives.

By having our feet fitted with the Gospel of peace we are not only walking in peace we are walking in the **word**. (Gospel) The presence of chaos and the absence of peace in our life may not mean that we are being attacked, but signal that we have stepped out of His Word and therefore **removed** the blessing of His peace. Before we run out to fight the devil, we need to examine our walk to see if there is a reason for a lack of peace.

There are two types of peace:

- Peace with God – what a person experiences when they first come to the Lord for salvation. When repentance is complete a new peace with God comes into being.  
**Colossians 1:20** Peace with God is a spiritual condition that belongs to all believers. It is the condition that comes into being when the wall between God and man dissolves.  
**Ephesians 2:14** This brings us into harmony with God.
- Peace of God – it is possible to have peace with God without knowing and experiencing the peace of God. Many people are at peace with God simply because they have received salvation, but they are not walking in the peace of God. Instead of a life dominated by peace that passes understanding they live in constant fretting, anxiety, worry and all manners of fear designed by the devil to disrupt and disturb the abundant life Jesus brings us.

We are to let the peace of God rule or dominate our hearts. **Colossians 3:15** When the supernatural peace of God rules in our life it serves as a referee to our emotions and over our decisions. This peace in our life means that the devil cannot gain a foothold that he desires to have. He cannot play games with our emotions and our mind because they are governed by peace. When we are walking in peace the assaults do not move us or loosen our footing because we are walking in the prevailing, sustaining overcoming peace of God.

The Shoes of Peace protect the entire foot of the soldier. There is more needed than sure footing. Many times, the terrain and circumstances were difficult to traverse. The shoes protected from the elements and added the support needed to the ankles. Soldiers must navigate difficult paths including rocks, thorns, fields and streams. Peace keeps us from stumbling but also keeps us from the bumps and bruises and cuts and scrapes that can really hinder our ability to move forward. Peace protects us from hurts. Peace protects us from death by a thousand little cuts. Peace affords us the ability to actually enjoy the challenges and trials because we know we are safe. Peace is an insulator from the elements.

While Paul describes these as the shoes of peace, peace also guards our heart and mind. **Philippians 4:6-8** Some versions say that the peace of God will ‘keep our heart’. That word means to guard, to protect and to garrison. It is a picture of many soldiers standing watch over something that needs protection. Peace acts as a guard over our inner man, our thoughts and feelings. The picture is of a dignitary having special protection. When peace is guarding our life, it gives us a security that passes understanding or a peace that doesn’t make sense.  
**Isaiah 26:3 (AMP)**

The majority of verses in the New Testament that talk about standing also have to do with faith. It is the peace of God that acts like the roots of a tree. It is the peace of God that keeps us rooted in faith. The deeper our peace, the deeper and stronger our faith and the more sure we are able to walk by faith. The peace of God keeps us immovable in our faith – peace insulates us from doubt.

Peace is not only a defensive piece of the armor it is used to defeat the enemy. **Romans 16:20**  
The word bruise in the Greek is a word that describes the act of smashing and crushing grapes into wine. This could be translated the peace of God will cause you to squash Satan under your feet. Satan's rightful position is under our feet. Alone we are no match for Satan but with the God of peace He shall crush the devil under our feet. The only place that rightfully belongs to the devil, is the small piece of ground that is under our feet. Remember the shoes of peace are our "Boots that were made for walking".

God promised Israel and Joshua that He would give them every place that the sole of their feet would touch. The land was filled with giants. They would have to possess the land. They had to fight. God promised that Satan would be defeated shortly.  
The hope that peace brings is that our battles with Satan have a limited duration. Victory is at hand and a sure thing.