

# Armor of God - Week 3

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023



## Summary - "Perfectly Suited, Purposely Fighting"

We are in week three of our series on the armor of God. We have learned that we do face an enemy (Satan) and his tactics include deception, confusion, accusation, discouragement, conflict, and temptation, just to name a few. We have also learned that we can stand against him by standing firm in Jesus Christ and the armor that he bestows upon us as believers. In week two we looked at the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. This week we look at the shoes we wear as we stand firm in this battle against the devil; shoes which comprise the most important battle-ready material that has ever been, the gospel of Jesus Christ (Christ - lived, died, buried, risen)

## Scripture - Ephesians (focus on 6:10-20)

Once again, Ephesians is a short, six chapter book that can be read in about 20-30 minutes. Continue to read through this book during the week as you also dig deeper into chapter 6:10-20 in order to stay in context during your study. This week, as you study the armor of God, and especially the shoes which are the readiness of the gospel of peace, remember our battle position, from vs. 11, 13, and 14 - to stand firm. To stand firm, a soldier needed a firm foundation and the right kind of shoes for the battle. But these shoes for our battle with the enemy, which we are called to put on, comprise of the most important battle-ready material that has ever been, the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not fit for the battle against the devil and his schemes if we are standing, readying ourselves, and preparing ourselves with anything other than the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The gospel that we stand firm in: reconciles us, redeems us, sets us up right before a holy God, we become his children, and we are set free from the payment of sin, death, and given life. Be ready. Put on the shoes. Put on the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

## Key Terms

### Thayer's Definition: Peace (verse 15)

Peace: eirēnē (i-ray'-nay) - a state of national tranquility; exemption from the rage and havoc of war; of Christianity - the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.

# Key Thoughts

Our strength is not in ourselves. It is not in our knowledge. It is not in having perfect theology or attempting to act perfect 100% of the time. It is standing in the strength of his might, in a relationship with Jesus Christ, that, as we saw last Sunday, delivers us the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness.

What we stand upon is crucial to the battle. What we stand in/upon leads us in a direction with our lives, choices, and actions. What we stand upon defines us.

The shoes are to the soldier as the gospel of Jesus Christ is to a follower of Jesus.

- When we stand, we stand in the gospel.
- When we march, we march in the gospel.
- When we defend our faith, we do so in the gospel.

We must continue to stand in the gospel: Christ - lived, died, buried, risen. When we stand in the gospel, it will deliver peace. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

The gospel is freedom, but freedom implies a battle has been won. When we put on the shoes of the gospel of peace, it gives us the ability to stand firm, be committed to the truth, trust in his righteousness and step into freedom, and march into battle by the strength of His might.

When we stand in the gospel, we will speak about the gospel. We should be known in our community, in our families, as people who deliver peace, because of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns (Isaiah 52:7)". It's easier to talk about the gospel of peace when you have experienced the peace it brings. When you speak from firsthand experience, the conversation flows freely. God's grace is not something you shy away from because it is naturally a part of who you are and on which you stand.



<i>The Spiritual Battle</i>		
<i>Enemy Tactic</i>	<i>Enemy says...</i>	<i>Christ is...</i>
<i>Deception</i>	<i>He's the father of lies who convinces us he's telling the truth. (John 8:44)</i>	<i>He is Truth. (John 1:14)</i>
<i>Temptation</i>	<i>He entices us with irresistible promises that prove hollow. (Genesis 3:4-5)</i>	<i>He is Fulfillment. (Philippians 4:19)</i>
<i>Confusion</i>	<i>He steals our clarity and introduces misunderstanding and doubt. (Isaiah 41:28-29)</i>	<i>He is the Way. (John 14:6)</i>
<i>Accusation</i>	<i>He undermines our confidence by shaming us with our guilt. (Revelation 12:10)</i>	<i>He is our Advocate. (Romans 8:34)</i>
<i>Fear</i>	<i>He fills us with worries that paralyze us. (Matthew 13:22)</i>	<i>He is Love. (John 15:13)</i>
<i>Entrapment</i>	<i>He locks us in attachments and thought patterns we can't break. (Proverbs 5:22)</i>	<i>He is Freedom. (John 8:36)</i>
<i>Discouragement</i>	<i>He tells us all the reasons why faith won't work. (2 Corinthians 12:7)</i>	<i>He is Hope. (Colossians 1:27)</i>
<i>Conflict</i>	<i>He sows discord to isolate us from one another. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11)</i>	<i>He is Peace. (Ephesians 2:14)</i>
<i>Death</i>	<i>He kills off the good and introduces decay. (John 10:10)</i>	<i>He is Life. (John 1:4)</i>

## Reflect & Respond

Do others consider you a person of peace? If not, why?

What area(s) of your life are you not allowing the gospel of peace to infiltrate?

How can you step into those areas with the gospel of peace?

What areas of your life do you have anxiety, fear, and worry?

How do you allow God's grace and mercy to pour over that area of your life?

Is the gospel where you find your hope? Is it really what you stand upon? Do you tell others about the gospel?

