

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

The Shoes of the GOSPEL of PEACE

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace ^{Ephesians 6:15} is the third weapon in God's Armor. Shoes and Peace have both practical and spiritual applications in life and in the Bible.

The Scriptures speak of sandals, which were the types of shoes worn in Biblical times.

Putting on shoes/sandals is part of the preparation for beginning any journey in life.

Exodus 12:11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

Shoes/sandals were also used as instruments in legal transactions. ^{Deuteronomy 25:7-10}

Ruth 4:7-8 In earlier times in Israel, for the redemption transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel. So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

In addition, shoes/sandals were sometimes an indication of economic status.

Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet."

The vital concept of Peace (*eirēnē*: absence of strife) appears in the Bible 251 times.

The Lord presented blessings of peace to the Levitical priests ^{Numbers 25:12}, to the Israelites through the priests ^{Numbers 6:22-26} and to the Hebrew nation through a covenant of peace ^{Isaiah 54:10, Malachi 2:5}.

Ezekiel 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever.

Even hundreds of years before His birth, Jesus was referred to as the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Peace is an integral part of the Salvation ^{Isaiah 57:2} that comes from Jesus ^{Acts 10:36, Colossians 1:19-20}.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The Godly life of obedience ^{Psalms 119:165, Isaiah 48:18}, dependence on the Holy Spirit ^{Romans 8:6}, discipline ^{Proverbs 29:17, Hebrews 12:11} and trust ^{Romans 15:13} results in national as well as individual peace, but the wicked are not able to access true peace ^{Isaiah 48:22, 57:21}.

Leviticus 26:3, 6a "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ... I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid."

It is important to God for all of His followers to pray and work for peace in Israel ^{Psalms 125:5b, 128:6}.

Psalms 122:6a Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

God's followers are encouraged to create peace whenever possible ^{Romans 12:18, 14:19, Hebrews 12:14}.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Peace is a key characteristic of the Kingdom of God and of the Fruit of the Spirit ^{Galatians 5:22-23}.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

The Lord is described as the God of Peace ^{Romans 16:20a, Philippians 4:9, Hebrews 13:20}.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Foundation of Christianity, Relationship with Christ, is the Basis for Peace.

Ephesians 2:14a For [Jesus] himself is our peace,

Jesus clarified the types of Earthly Peace He promised to His followers.

Jesus offered inner peace: **John 14:25-27** All this I have spoken while still with you.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

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Holy War – 5 Gospel of Peace

He did not promise outer peace between individuals or nations: **Matthew 10:32-36** *Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'* ^{Micah 7:6}

The God of Peace furnishes two types of Peace: *Peace with God* and *Peace of God*.

As part of the gift of Grace, all people receive the *Peace with God* at the moment of their Salvation. *Peace with God* is an indication that God views each genuine Christian through the blood of Jesus.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The *Peace of God* is obtained only by obedience during Sanctification ^{Romans 15:33, Colossians 3:15}. The

Peace of God is the practical Earthly application in the Christian's life of the eternal *Peace with God*.

Philippians 4:4-9 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer & petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This study does not include full discussions of the concepts of readiness or the Gospel.

The readiness preparation of the Christian produces the *Peace of God* by maintaining a closeness to the LORD in prayer ^{Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17}, study ^{Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3} & service ^{Matthew 25:35-36,40}.

1 Peter 3:15b Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

The author assumes the reader has a working knowledge of the Gospel (*euaggelion*: Good News), which is explained very well in the first chapter of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

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The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace are designed to enable Christians to go into the world to present the Good News ^{Isaiah 52:7, Romans 10:15b} of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to all who have not accepted the renewing Grace and Peace with God.

Thankfully, Jesus made sure to share His ultimate reassurance before leaving Earth.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. ^{John 16:33}

Numbers 6:22-26 The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." ' ' ' .

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful

Isaiah 48:18 If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Matthew 25:35-36 *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

Acts 10:36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Romans 8:6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 16:20a The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 ...pray continually;

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

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