

# **Spiritual Warfare 4**

## **The Boots of the Gospel**

**Text: Eph 6:13-16**

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

NKJV

### **Re- Cap of Last Week**

- 1). Stand Therefore To stand fast
- 2). Girded with the belt of truth – established with the gospel truth
- 3). Having the breastplate of righteousness – Identity & and the will of the heart.

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

### **Introduction**

This is in relation to what the Roman Soldier had on their feet...

Having your feet shod –

This commandment is very important for it commands us to have our footing prepared, how can we successfully defend or advance without the proper footing.

Today, much money is spent on the purchase of our shoes, many claim that the more comfortable the footing the better your whole body would respond to the pressures of the day.

Tired feet make a tired body.

In the Roman times, these soldiers were the inventors of protective footing and developed shoes with sort of a cleat that would give them traction in their advance and one on one combat. As their opponent slipped, they would have the advantage.

## **POINT ONE: Have YOUR FEET SHOD**

The command is clear, have your FEET SHOD. Make sure you're your footing is secure...

In our Christian Journey we recognize times of defeat with terms such as... I slipped, or I stumbled today. Or when it's serious we might use the word I FELL. These terms seem to identify so accurately our standing.

King Asaph put it out very clear....

### **Ps 73:1-3**

1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my **feet had almost** stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

### **Ps 38:16**

16 For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me."

### **Ps 116:8-9**

8 For You have delivered my soul from death, My eyes from tears, And my **feet from falling**.

9 I will walk before the LORD In the land of the living.

### **Ps 17:5**

5 Uphold my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip.

It is very important that our feet our SHOD or footing is secure.

### **These shoes were designed to protect us from injury -**

These shoes were designed to keep us from Gall traps or sharp objects in the ground laid privately that would tear up our footing and we cannot march on. When your foot is hurting it is very difficult to do anything.

In a sport called Thai boxing I have seen the strategy work on the calves and ankles of the opponent, and eventually bring him to a place of tortures pain to protect and fight back.

## **POINT TWO: Securing our Footing**

In the midst of spiritual warfare, not only are we to have our feet properly prepared, but in addition to make sure our feet are secure. Without the grip you'll slip.

There is a commercial that advertises a new type of traction, giving grip to the wheels that slip. In order for us to secure our step we are to recognize the areas we are more prone to slip.

**Thank God for this promise...**

### **Ps 94:18-19**

18 If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up.

19 In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.

But the question is what are your anxieties? What causes you to slip?

When we allow anxieties to overwhelm us we must be careful that we do not allow ourselves to respond for the enemy. He has a way of controlling us by fear and stress.

Our stress and fear comes much from not knowing. Not knowing what we are involved in and not knowing what God is involved in. This is a major reason for our slipping.

### **Ps 37:23-24**

23 The steps of a good man are **ordered by the LORD**, And He delights in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

This scripture tells us how to secure our footing. To know what is ORDERED of the Lord.

**Def: Ordered** – Fixed and placed. Do you know what the MASTER ORDERED?

When we know what God is ordering and what He has ordered and we do His will, then our footing will be secure. Make sure that when you place your foot Forward, that you were ordered of the Lord to do so. So in the midst of confrontation you know that you are to be faithful to hold YOUR GROUND.

## **POINT THREE: preparation of the gospel of peace;**

Not only are these shoes to protect us and establish us, but it is also to get us around. These shoes are carrying the greatest message of all time. THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

Isa 52:7

7 How beautiful **upon the mountains** Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace,

Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

When our feet are established we can go to the mountain and shout out the good news, and the Good news is the proclamation of PEACE

These shoes are to carry us, this GREAT treasure in Earthen Vessels, if we fall, so the message and the Gospel of Peace falls with us.

That the apostle has obedience to the Gospel in general in view, there can be no doubt; but he appears to have more than this, a readiness to publish the Gospel: for, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good things, that publisheth PEACE; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Isa 52:7; Rom 10:15.

The Israelites were commanded to eat the Passover with their feet shod, to show that they were ready for their journey. And our Lord commands his disciples to be shod with sandals, that they might be ready to go and publish the Gospel, as the Israelites were to go to possess the Promised Land. Every Christian should consider himself on his journey from a strange land to his own country, and not only stand every moment prepared to proceed, but be every moment in actual progress toward his home.

Eph 6:15

[The preparation of the Gospel] The word *hetoimasia* (NT:2091) which we translate preparation, is variously understood. Some think it means an habitual readiness in walking in the way prescribed by the Gospel; others that firmness and solidity which the Gospel gives to them who conscientiously believe its doctrines; others, those virtues and graces which in the first planting of Christianity were indispensably necessary to those who published it.

Should we take the word preparation in its common acceptation, it may imply that, by a conscientious belief of the Gospel, receiving the salvation provided by its author, and walking in the way of obedience which is pointed out by it, the soul is prepared for the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel is termed the Gospel of peace, because it establishes peace between God and man, and proclaims peace and good will to the universe. Contentions, strife, quarrels, and all wars, being as alien from its nature and design, as they are opposed to the nature of Him who is love and compassion to man.

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Then this third piece of armor -- "Having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace." Shoes are absolutely essential to fighting. Imagine a soldier clad in armor from head to foot but with no shoes on, a barefoot soldier. Imagine how quickly the rough ground would tear his feet and bruise them. Soon, despite the fact that he had all the equipment he needed otherwise, he would be out of combat. His feet would render him unfit to fight. But with a stout pair of shoes he would be ready and equipped, able to fight. That is what this phrase means. *Equipment* here is really the word "readiness" in Greek: "Your feet shod with the readiness produced by the good news of peace." It is peace in the heart that makes you able to fight.

What does this mean? Well, again it is Christ, but Christ our peace this time -- our source of calm, euphoria, i.e., a sense of well-being. Notice the relation of one piece to another and the importance of the order that I stressed earlier. The first piece tells us that Christ is the truth, the ultimate secret of reality. We have come home, we have touched the key to life of Jesus Christ. That is something for the mind to understand and grasp and believe. And then what? Well, we know him then. We stand on his merits. We put on the breastplate of his righteousness. We come on the basis of what he has done and not what we do. And what is the result of that? Our hearts are at peace! Paul says, "Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," {Rom 5:1 KJV}. Calmness, courage! To use a modern term, and, I think, the most accurate, we have good "morale." Our morale is high. We are ready for anything. No ground can be too rough for Christ -- and we have Christ. Therefore we have good morale.

Do you remember the dark days in England when they were going through the blitz, and bombs were raining down all the time? The situation was really desperate. Then Winston Churchill would come on the radio and speak to the English people when their hearts were filled with defeat and discouragement. At times they would be almost ready to quit. But that one man's voice would ring out and the nation would take heart again, and their morale would be strong. That is what Christ does. He is able to speak peace to our hearts.