

“Be STRONG In The Gospel Of PEACE”
“FOOTWEAR For FIGHTING”
Ephesians 6:10-15
9/4/22
Series: Be STRONG In The LORD
Message 4

Introduction

- Title Of The Series: “Be STRONG In The LORD”
- Title of the Message is: “Be STRONG In The Gospel Of PEACE”

- **Illustration – Right Shoes**

- **Having the right shoes are important!?**
 - Today we have shoes for everything...
 - We have
 - Dress shoes
 - Work shoes
 - Leisure shoes
 - Tennis Player will have different shoes for different courts
 - Having the RIGHT Shoes at the RIGHT TIME – Is Important
 - Illustration – The time I didn’t have the Right shoes
 - Story of the time I had the wrong shoes on... Bike accident as a kid
 - Now I have special Bike shoes that clip in
 - Illustration Paul Uses – A Roman Soldier

- Can you imagine how a soldier would do in battle in **flip flops!?**
- A Soldier needs the RIGHT SHOW
 - Marching
 - Climbing
 - Running
 - Being sure footed in fighting the enemy!
 - Shoes are critical for battle
- Description of the Roman Soldiers Shoes
 - **Show Pics x 3**
 - Especially designed Sandal
 - With the thickest leather bottom possible.
 - In the leather was attached nails called Hobnails – Spikes
 - Benefit
 - Could Walk on many different Terrain & Objects
 - Rocks, metal, glass, Etc...
 - Sure Footing
 - In hand to hand combat the nails would grab into any surface allowing him to stand steadfast and fight!!!
 - Many believe this was a key element in the victories in battle
- So It is Critical that we have the Right Shoes

- Now before We Look at Footwear for Fighting - let's Review

- **Review - Amidst a Series – STRONG In The LORD**

- **1st We talk about...**

- The Christian life is a
 - BATTLE GROUND
 - NOT a PLAYGROUND!!!
- We are NOT JUST
 - CHILDREN of God
 - BUT SOLDIERS in the Lord's ARMY!
- The Church is a...
 - BATTLESHIP
 - NOT a Cruise ship

- **2nd NOW - We REALLY Don't like the Idea that We're in a WAR**

- 1st We don't want to think of the Christian life as a Battle, War!
- 2nd We Want Ideal!!!
 - If we are honest with ourselves, we all want the Ideal Easy life

- **3rd Messages So Far!**

- 1st Be STRONG In THE Lord
 - 1st Consider Our Enemy and his Strategy

- He is Real and has Great Power
- Seeks to Destroy US
- Is Controlling the LOST (Ephesians 2:1-2)
- 2nd Consider our Source of Power (JESUS)
 - We DON'T fight FOR Victory
 - We Fight FROM Victory
- 3rd Call to STAND!!
 - To Stand Strong IN the Lord and IN the Power of HIS might
 - We can't STAND on our own – we NEED Him
- 2nd Be **STRONG In The TRUTH**
 - The Belt Of Truth Holds everything together
 - Truth Holds Everything together
 - Critical we are Anchored in His Truth
- 3rd Be **STRONG In Righteousness**
 - The Breastplate Protects The Heart
 - We Looked At 3 types of Righteousness
 - Self-Righteousness
 - Positional Righteousness
 - Practical Righteousness
- **4th NOTE: There are 2 DIVISIONS - HAVING & TAKING**

- As we go through the Armor, I want you to note 2 things
- **1st HAVING**
 - The First 3 Pieces of Armor Paul says...
 - “Having” girded waist with truth
 - “Having” put on the breastplate of Righteousness
 - “Having” shod feet with...
 - By using the word "HAVING" puts this in the past tense
 - So when did this happen?
 - The moment you Received Christ!
 - The first 3 pieces of armor deal with who you are in Christ. Your position
- **2nd TAKING**
 - The Second 3 pieces of Armor
 - The verb usage is different - Present Tense –
 - “Take Up” the Shield
 - “Take Up” the Helmet
 - “Take Up” the Sword
 - These three pieces of armor are aspects of Christ that we must deliberately TAKE UP
 - Take up again and again whenever we are under attack.
- **3rd ALL the Armor POINT to Jesus**

- Jesus is TRUTH! (John 14:6)
- Jesus is RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Jesus is PEACE (Eph. 2:14)
- Jesus is FAITHFULNESS which possible our faith (Gal. 2:20)
- Jesus is our SALVATION (Luke 2:30)
- Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14)

• **Now This Morning 2 Powerful TRUTHS about the Footwear For Fighting**

- What Is The Footwear For Fighting
- How Does The Footwear For Fighting IMPACT Our Life

What Is The Footwear For Fighting

• **First: Special Shoes – Footwear For Fighting**

- **1st Special Footwear For Fighting**
 - To wear that we might Stand Strong against our enemy
 - That we might move Swiftly & Confidently in
 - Our walks with Jesus – Be sure in who we are
 - To be Stand Strong in ministry
 - It is Critical we have theses shoes so we can STAND STRONG
- **2nd Purpose to Stand Strong**
 - Stand Strong – mentioned 4 times in these few verses

- **To STAND STRONG**

- In a world that is becoming more antagonistic against God...
- Against – Temptation to become carnal
- Against the attacks of the enemy that cause us to become shipwrecked!!!

- **Different Ways to STAND**

- The Bible uses different Hebrew and Greek words –
 - To describe those different ways of standing
 - There are different ways that we stand – concerning the situation

- **1st Abiding Stand**

- Remaining Patient
- Remain under
- Endurance
- Remain IN - ABIDE

- **2nd Alert Stand**

- A Guard who is Standing Watch

- **3rd Standing READY - STRONG**

- The word used here in Ephesians 6 –

- Stand describes an –

- Available Stand – A ready Stand

- What it looks
 - Hineni (Isaiah 6)
 - It says - Here am I send me to do Your will and Work
 - Lord I am available for whatever you want to do!
 - Where-ever you want me to go.
 - We have Eagerness
 - Prepared – I know where my strength lies
 - The Point is I am standing with a purpose!
 - Take GROUND
 - Not just a desire to hold my ground & not lose ground (NO)
 - It is standing with the goal of gaining ground of moving forward.
 - The Christian life is never meant to be for standing still
 - Our goal is never just to maintain –
 - Always to move forward – always to push ahead

• **Second: What is The Footwear For Fighting**

- **1st The Gospel**

- Some have said – To Share The Gospel – Comes from (Romans 10:15)

Romans 10:15 (NKJV)

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

- **NOTE:**

- This interpretation is not the main interpretation of this verse
- But It is VERY Important that we share the Gospel of Peace with this world

- **Lesson Be Ready to share the Gospel at any moment**

- Methods are MANY
- My advice
 - Keep it simple and plain

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

- ABC
- Pass Out Tracks
- Witness to Family, Friends, Co-Workers, Etc...

- Keys to Sharing The FAITH
 - Avoid debates
- It's NOT our job to save – ITS HIS
- The sufficiency of God's word
- **2nd The Main Interpretation**
 - This passage is about standing strong in spiritual battle...
 - It is not about evangelizing!
 - FIRST 3 pieces of armor are not pieces you put on –
 - You already have them
 - Having = past tense - moment you became saved!
 - So this is Not talking about DOING something (Witnessing)
 - BUT what we have already in Christ
- **3rd Peace WITH God - Through Christ**
 - **1st Remember - Last Time - Imputation of Original SIN**
 - We are ALL born INTO the Adamic NATURE – SINNERS
 - In Romans chapters 1-5
 - Paul builds a case for how our sin separated us from God
 - It left us as enemies of God
 - Lost and doomed to spend eternity separated from God.

▪ **2nd BUT GOD**

- Some of the two GREATEST words in the Bible
- God intervened by sending Christ
- To Take the PUNISHMENT that we Deserved

Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV)

*5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with
God,
7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and
coming in the likeness of men.
8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became
obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is
above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of
those on earth, and of those under the earth,
11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory
of God the Father.*

▪ **3rd The RESULTS – After you receive Christ**

Romans 5:1–2 (NKJV)

*1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

- We are JUSTIFIED by FAITH in Jesus
 - Justified - Means
 - Justification is an act of God whereby
 - He pronounces a sinner to be righteous because of that sinner's faith in Christ.

- *“The root idea in justification is the declaration of God, the righteous judge, that the man who believes in Christ, sinful though he may be, is righteous—is viewed as being righteous, because in Christ he has come into a righteous relationship with God” (Ladd, G. E., A Theology of the New Testament, Eerdmans, 1974, p. 437)*
- Justified - Is to declare righteous
- Justified - Just as if I Never Sinned
- Result we have - PEACE WITH GOD
 - It means we know
 - Our sins are forgiven!!!
 - We have been reconciled to God by the death of His son!
 - We have been cleansed from every speck of sin and accepted in the beloved
 - When God looks on you it is with affection
 - This is why Paul puts it this way
 - *“Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.”*
 - Preparation = Equipped With
 - The truth of the Gospel is that we can be RECONCILED TO GOD!
 - Starts with the Truth of Who Jesus is – what He did for us – on Calvary
 - The truth of what HE DID / NOT how I feel about it!!!

- I embrace that by faith – confident in God's truth
- It is the truth that tells me – I am now covered in the righteousness of Christ
- Because I am now righteous in Christ – I can have fellowship with a Holy God
- I can experience what it means to be at peace with God.
- That is the peace that every man is seeking!

○ **4th Sadly - The World is Looking for PEACE - But in all the Wrong Places**

- People are LOOKING for PEACE
 - Peace of mind
 - Peace from the emptiness we felt inside;
 - Peace from the guilt we couldn't escape
 - Peace from the feeling of not knowing what awaited us
- Sadly they Look for this Peace in
 - Materialism
 - Sex
 - Drugs
 - Food
 - Pleasure

- Some even in Morality - (they sought to clean up their act - good honest people)
 - So they dabbled in religion - maybe starting going to church
 - Became very religious – it is possible to be religious and not be at peace with God
- Peace Is ONLY found in Jesus
- Illustration:
 - I can still remember the moment that this peace came to me, all my sins forgiven, hope for today, hope for tomorrow

How The Footwear For Fighting IMPACTS Our Life

• First: Peace OF God

- **1st Two Shoes The Second Shoe - The Peace OF God**
 - 1st Shoe Peace WITH God
 - 2nd Shoe Peace OF God
- **2nd Several ways this Peace OF God Impacts our lives**
 - **1st Peace Knowing that He LOVES Me**

Ephesians 3:16–19 (NKJV)

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—
19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

▪ **2nd Peace Knowing That He Knows my Name –**

Isaiah 49:16 (NKJV)

16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

▪ **3rd Peace knowing that I can Come Boldy Before His Throne**

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

▪ **4th Peace for my Troubled Heart**

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

▪ **5th Peace Of Mind**

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

▪ **6th Peace over FEARS**

John 14:27 (NKJV)

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Psalms 27:1 (NKJV)

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- Alexander Maclaren; “Peace comes not from the absence of trouble, but from the presence of God.”

- Results in

- I can step out of the boat like Peter and walk on water when he says come
- I can run out to meet the enemy - like David because He is with me - I am at peace with Him!
- I can face any situation because He is with me!

- **7th Peace knowing that Nothing can Separate us from Him**

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Second: This Peace Protects Us From**

- **1st Satan Lies**

- Satan seeks to rob us of our peace! - John 10 he is a thief and a robber!
- Earn Your Salvation
 - Isn't as easy as just believing in Jesus
 - Loves to get us thinking we must do more
 - Jesus plus – something else

- We MUST work For it
- Condemning Thoughts
 - You call yourself a Christian
 - You Call Yourself a pastor
 - Talk with my DAD
- Truth – His Peace is ALL by GRACE
 - His GRACE is Not Earned
 - It's ALL By GRACE - Just Enjoyed!
- **2nd Protects us From False Teaching – Teachers**
 - The Shoes of the Peace of the Gospel – Help us stand against FALSE teaching in the church
 - Major tactic satan is using today in the church
 - Same as the Garden – “Did God Indeed say”
 - Postmodernism
 - What this means - Is NO absolute truth
 - Postmodernism has entered the church
 - Sadly – Postmodernism
 - What this means - Is NO absolute truth
 - Has entered the church
 - The Church which is the purveyor of TRUTH

- YET we have lost our way
- Started in the New Testament
 - Where false teachers quickly perverted the essentials of the gospel
- Continues Today – Wokeness
 - Emerging Church
 - Errors of the Emerging church
 - That truth is relative and ultimately unknowable in any certain way
 - Attacked the atonement of Christ.
 - *It proclaims a tolerant, all-inclusive universalism that does not confront sinners with their need to repent and believe the gospel.*
 - Seeker Friendly Church
 - Emotions Feelings entertainment OVER the Word of God
 - The seeker movement has applied
 - American marketing principles to the church.
 - They have asked potential “customers,” “What would it take to get you to come to church?”
 - The customers answered, “We’d like an upbeat, short service that relates to our felt needs.

- Tell us how to succeed in our families and at work.
- Tell us how to cope with our problems.
- Give us contemporary music that makes us feel good (keep it light on content!).
- Throw in some entertaining drama to keep the program moving.
- Keep the sermon short and humorous. By all means, get rid of that hellfire and damnation stuff! That's depressing!"

- Results

- **Pew Research Center report, December 2009**

- Between 21%-49% of mainline Christians believe in reincarnation, spiritual power in physical objects, practice Yoga, consulted a psychic, or believes in astrology.
- 70% of evangelicals claim some type of mystical experience.
- 28% Who attend a religious service once a week also attend a service of another faith.

- **Article**

- **Over a third of Evangelical pastors believe 'good people' can earn their way to Heaven: survey**

- The findings were among several surprising responses as part of a survey conducted earlier this year by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University.

- Also Found

- One-third or more of senior pastors surveyed also believe the Holy Spirit is not a person but rather “a symbol of God’s power.”
- Others said that moral truth is subjective; sexual relations between two unmarried people who love each other is “morally acceptable” and biblical teaching on abortion is “ambiguous.”
- “Socialism is preferable to capitalism and that allowing property ownership facilitates economic injustice,
- Another 39% of Evangelical pastors surveyed said there is no absolute moral truth and that “each individual must determine their own truth.” Roughly the same percentage (38%) said human life is sacred, while 37% said having faith, in general, is more important than in what — or more specifically, Whom — one has faith.

- **Show Pic x 2**

- Barna Report 2017
- Ligonier – State of Theology

- **Show Pic x 1**

- Pastors World View

- **3rd Protects Us From Storms, Trials & Persecution**

- Satan is the author of confusion - of chaos!

- He is always attempting to throw us off by
 - Storms
 - Trials
 - Persecution
 - The What “IF” of life
- Having my feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
 - 1st Doesn't mean - I won't experience storms / confusion
 - Doesn't mean chaos - won't invade my life!
 - We will face trials / face difficulties
 - 2nd But It does mean He is with me

John 16:33 (NKJV)

33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

- I can experience the peace of God in the midst of that situation - because I know I'm at peace with God!
- I know that God is not going to abandon me – Gave me Jesus – Not going to let me go now!
- Illustrations
 - Mark 4
 - Jesus is with his disciples in a boat crossing Sea of Galilee - Jesus is asleep - Total rest - (storms comes out of nowhere)
 - Daniel 3

- Hananiah, Michele Azariah
- Peace with God - resulted in peace of God! In midst of fire!
 - So no matter where you are today when we “shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”
 - We will be at peace with God and have HIS peace

Closing

- So Critical we have the armor on
 - Belt of TRUTH
 - Breast Plate of Righteousness
 - The Shoes – The Gospel Of PEACE
 - Peace WITH God
 - Peace Of God
 - So we CAN STAND FAST in these last days

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*