FOUNDATIONS, THE ARMOR OF GOD: LESSON #3

- We are continuing our series with two more pieces of armor tonight

I. WE ARE TO PUT ON THE SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE OR IN OTHER WORDS _________________!

- The Amplified Version gives us an expanded and accurate translation of Ephesians 6:15

Ephesians 6:15 (AMP)
And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

A. THE SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE HELP US STAND _________________ IN BATTLE

1. God’s word gives us _________________ to our feet in reference to spiritual warfare
   a. The first reference is as far back as the book of Genesis where we are given the first promise of dominion over the powers of darkness

Genesis 3:14-15 (NKJV)
14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.
15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

ex. This exchange between the Lord and the serpent happened after he tempted Eve and she and Adam fell in the garden.
God was speaking prophetically to the serpent or the devil about the coming day when Jesus would die and go into hell, bruise his head, and take the keys of death, hell, and the grave.

So much happened when Jesus died and rose again and one of the most important was the regaining of dominion man surrendered in the garden.

b. Throughout the New Testament it talks about our feet in reference to dominion and authority over the enemy

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
19 Behold, **I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

**Ephesians 1:19-23 (NKJV)**
19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
22 **And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,**
23 **which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- Because we are His body and all things have been put under His feet it means they are under our feet!

**Romans 16:20 (NKJV)**
And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
• The powers of darkness have been put under our feet

Ephesians 6:15 (NKJV)
and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

2. The warriors sandals were anything but _________

From “Sparkling Gems From the New Testament”, Rick Renner

The shoes of a Roman soldier were vicious weapons. They began at the top of the legs near the knees and extended down to the feet. The portions that covered the knees to the feet were called the “greaves.” They were made of metal and were specially shaped to wrap around the calves of a soldier’s legs.

The greaves — the metal that covered the Roman soldier’s legs from his knees to the top of his feet — were designed to protect the soldier’s calves when he was required to march through rocky and thorny terrain. If he’d had no protection on his legs, he would have surely been gashed and cut by the environment. Thus, the greaves gave the soldier protection so he could keep walking, regardless of the obstacles he encountered. The metal barriers also gave him defensive protection in those moments when an adversary kicked him in the shins, trying to break his legs. Because the soldier’s calves were covered with these greaves, his legs could not be broken and the enemy’s attacks were in vain.

The shoe itself was made of heavy pieces of leather or metal, tied together with leather straps that were intermingled with bits of metal. The bottoms were manufactured of heavy leather or pieces of metal. The bottom of the shoes were affixed with sharp, dangerous, protruding spikes.

These were intended to hold him “in place” when in battle. His opponent might try to push him around, but the spikes on the bottom of his shoes helped keep him in his place, making the soldier virtually immovable.

3. The gospel of peace keeps us sure footed when the devil tries to ____________________
**John 14:27 (NKJV)**

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.

- a. Jesus’ peace is what keeps us grounded and settled
- b. One of the ways the enemy tries to push us around is through fear

**ex.** Fear of others’ opinions of us, fear of lack or not having enough to live on, fear of what will happen in the future.

- c. Fear is a miserable way to live and as believers we are not meant to live that way

**again, John 14:27 (NKJV)**

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.

- • We have to learn to take a stand through His peace!

**ex.** When we feel anxious or afraid we take a stand against it!

“I refuse to live in fear. I rebuke the spirit of fear in Jesus’ name.”

Then we thank Jesus for what He has promised to give us.

“Jesus, thank You for giving me Your peace. I won’t let the enemy push me around with fear. I will stand with my feet firmly planted with the good news of peace.”

**Romans 16:20 (NKJV)**

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

- • It’s the God of peace and our feet shod with the gospel of peace that crushes Satan under our feet!

**C. IN ADDITION TO OUR STAND, OUR FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE REPRESENTS _________________ TO OTHERS**
• Our feet represent movement

**Romans 10:14-15 (NKJV)**

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
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!**"

1. How evangelism, reaching others for Christ, relates with _____________________
   a. Satan’s driving ambition is to destroy lives
   b. **Romans 10:15** talks about the “**gospel of peace**”

**Ephesians 6:15 (NKJV)**

*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*

- The word “preparation” used here means “a readiness”
- The word “beautiful” used here means “at the right time, or seasonable”
- In other words, this is the season or right time to take the gospel to others
- As we share the good news about Christ to others we are working to destroy the hold Satan has on others
- It’s a vital part of spiritual warfare!

**II. THE _____________________**

**Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)**

*above all, taking the shield of faith* with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

- This could literally read, *“over and above all, take the shield of faith.”*
A. IT’S THE SHIELD OF FAITH THAT ________________________

From “Sparkling Gems From the New Testament”, Rick Renner
The word “shield” is the Greek word thureos, which was used by the
Greeks and Romans to depict an oblong door that was wide in width and
long in length. The reason the Roman soldiers used this word to describe
their battle shields was that the shields were door-shaped. They were wide
in width and long in length; just like the door of a house. Because it was
wide and long, this shield completely covered the Roman soldier!

1. The shield of faith is our ______________________
   a. The shield was large enough for the soldier to crouch
      under and protect from every arrow

Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)
above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to
quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

   • In our first lesson we talked about how with the full armor of God we
can resist and overcome EVERY attack of the enemy
   • This verse reiterates this; “…you will be able to quench all the
fiery darts of the wicked one.”

2. These fiery darts are launched against __________

ex.  “God isn’t there. He doesn’t care. You’ll never make it.” etc.

   • Our defense against these fiery darts is the shield of faith

      a. Our faith is our belief in the integrity of God’s
character and His word

      • “I believe that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He
said He would do”

      b. Our faith is our belief in who God says we are and
what He says we can do
• “I believe I am who God says I am and I can do what He said I can do”

  c. As we lift up our faith in Him, it protects us from every assault

3. Our faith is something ______________

Romans 12:3 (NKJV)
For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

a. God has given us all the faith we need to protect us
b. The shield of faith has us covered for every situation
c. Just as the shield covered the warrior from head to toe, our faith, like a wide and long shield, covers any need that we will ever face

ex. How to lift up the shield of faith.
  “I believe God loves me, has forgiven me, and watches over me to protect me.”
  “I believe His word is true; that He will always be there for me to help me in every area of my life. My faith in Him has got me covered!”

B. FAITH IS GIVEN TO US BY GOD BUT ALSO MUST BE
____________________

• The warrior’s shields required maintenance every day

From “Sparkling Gems From the New Testament”, Rick Renner
In the majority of cases, the Roman soldier’s shield was composed of multiple layers of thick animal hide that had been tightly woven together. Usually six layers of animal hide were specially tanned and then woven together so tightly that they became nearly as strong as steel.

Because of how it was made, the shield of the Roman soldier was extremely tough and exceptionally durable! However, the Roman soldier’s leather shield could become stiff and breakable over a period of time if it
wasn’t properly taken care of. Therefore, it was necessary for him to know how to take care of it.

Each morning when the soldier was awakened, he would reach for a small vial of oil. After saturating a piece of cloth with oil, he would begin to rub that heavy ointment into the leather portion of the shield to keep it soft, supple, and pliable. Any soldier who neglected this daily application of oil and allowed his shield to go without the necessary care was in effect inviting certain death. If not correctly cared for and properly maintained, the leather portion of the shield would harden, crack when put under pressure, and finally fall to pieces.

1. Although faith has been given to us by God, we have to ________________
   a. Believing isn’t automatic
   b. Daily we have to put into practice the faith God has put in our hearts
   c. It requires our participation!

   • It needs to be contended for

Jude 1:3 (NKJV)
Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV)
*Fight the good fight of faith*, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2. Our faith can grow and is something we can ______

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV)
We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because **your faith grows exceedingly**, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.
a. Oftentimes the way our faith is built is through "resistance training"

ex. It’s after we’ve fought a few battles and seen how our faith in God brought us through that we grow in our confidence in Him.

b. One of the ways we can build our faith is by praying in the Spirit

**Jude 1:20 (NKJV)**
But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

- One of the advantages of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues is our faith is built up

**PRAYER AND CONFESSION**

Thank You, Jesus, for putting Satan under my feet. I will stand sure-footed through Your peace. Anoint me to tell others about the Gospel of peace. Thank You for giving me the shield of faith to protect me. I believe You have given me all the faith I need to stand against the attacks of the enemy. I will continue to practice and grow my faith in You, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

**I. WE ARE TO PUT ON THE SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE OR IN OTHER WORDS __(KILLER SHOES)!**

**A. THE SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE HELP US STAND __(SURE FOOTED) IN BATTLE**

1. God’s word gives us __*(specific promises)* to our feet in reference to spiritual warfare

2. The warrior sandals were anything but __*(passive)*

3. The gospel of peace keeps us sure footed when the devil tries to __*(push us around)*
C. IN ADDITION TO OUR STAND, OUR FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE REPRESENT __ (SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS) TO OTHERS

1. How evangelism, reaching others for Christ, relates with __ (spiritual warfare)

II. THE __ (SHIELD OF FAITH)

A. IT’S THE SHIELD OF FAITH THAT __ (“HAS US COVERED”)

1. The shield of faith is our __ (first line of defense)

2. These fiery darts are launched against __ (our minds)

3. Our faith is something __ (God given)

B. FAITH IS GIVEN TO US BY GOD BUT ALSO MUST BE __ (MAINTAINED)

1. Although faith has been given to us by God, we have to __ (practice it)

2. Our faith can grow and is something we can __ (build)