

Happy Feet

Ephesians 6:15

Main focus of this series: This series is a formulation of key teachings and understandings from the book of Ephesians. In an effort to decipher each statement of Paul in Ephesians we believe we will learn how to successfully operate in the three positions of the believer: to **sit** (Ephesians 1-3), to **walk** (Ephesians 4-6:9) and over the next few weeks we will address the thought... **stand** (Ephesians 6:10-24) .

The importance of this message today: Many studies are done the the seven weapons of our warfare and in all that were researched they all had one thing in common, this one got the least amount of attention. That stirred my curiosity, "Why would this receive any less attention than the rest?" From my observation, the Peace of God is the greatest secret of the Kingdom of God. It is not a hard, firm teaching and it is not loud and demonstrative. It is simply a lesson best described by the bumper sticker that says, "Let go and let God." There is a place you have to find with God or you will continue to look for other things to meet that demand in your heart and mind. "Peace" is the prescription for to day.

Introduction:

Alligator Shoes- A young blond was on vacation in the depths of Louisiana. She wanted a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking.

After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the blond shouted, "Maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator so I can get a pair of shoes at a reasonable price!"

The shopkeeper said, "By all means, be my guest. Maybe you'll luck out and catch yourself a big one!" Determined, the blond turned and headed for the swamps, set on catching herself an alligator.

Later in the day, the shopkeeper was driving home, when he spotted the young woman standing waist deep in the water, shotgun in hand. Just then, he saw a huge 9-foot alligator swimming quickly toward her. She took aim, killed the creature, and with a great deal of effort hauled it on to the swamp bank. Lying nearby were several more of the dead creatures. The shopkeeper watched in amazement. Just then the blond flipped the alligator on its back, and frustrated, shouts out, "NO WAY, this one isn't wearing any shoes either!"

"Stand firm then...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Ephesians 6:14a-15

Here's what I know about peace:

- **Everyone needs it and is looking for it.**
- **Everyone has a form of it.**
- **Everyone who has it are the happiest people in the world.**

In the last few weeks we have been covering the area where we are told in Ephesians 6:11,

13 and 14 to stand. We understand a few things now that the seven weapons that God has given us are sometimes looked at in different ways. For instance:

- **The Jesus View-** This view simply doesn't care to get too caught up with the idea of weapons of our warfare, Jesus is all I need! You are absolutely right. When it comes down to it, sometimes Jesus is all you got and all you need. Nothing is more important than Jesus, He is all that matters. But, He has resourced us through His death and resurrection to have more power and victory in our life. Jesus is all I need, but the tools and weapons that He has given me allows me to become more progressive and affective/timely in the conflict with our enemy. I will not resist, but I will pursue my understanding of these weapons of my warfare. But when I have done all to stand, I will stand, because Christ is sufficient.
- **The Preference View-** This view is the view that one of these weapons fit us as if it were a gift that we particularly like. One example is the first weapon that Paul mentions in Ephesians 6:14, the belt of truth. Some prefer this weapon more than the others. Truth is the most important thing to them. These are the glasses they wear to review any teaching or study that might be going on. Truth, truth, truth! It is important here that my statements do not lead one to believe that I don't think that truth is valid and important. I do, but using the wrong weapon during the battle is as bad as getting caught without one. When we prefer one weapon over another one we risk the danger of being under gunned no matter how good we are with it.
- **The Order View-** This view states that Paul's teaching of these seven weapons have an order. To which I am getting closer to seeing as a real possibility. The reality of our feet being fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace is an absolute necessity. But we become keenly aware that what should precede this process is truth and righteousness. To get this out of order could and would be a disaster. How do I know? Because I see it too many times. I see those who have a heart to win the world and stand toe to toe with the devil but have no foundation of truth and their righteous testimony is questionable. I believe that there may be an order that we need to really consider.

Describing this portion of the armor is difficult unless you see a pattern or process Paul may be taking here. First he says you must surround yourself with the **belt of truth**, gird yourself up. Second, you must conform to the **breastplate of righteousness**...it will not conform to you. You must **stand against Satan, stand up to a standard and stand for something** in the presence of God. The breastplate of righteousness, that we discussed last week, is described as something that we must personal conform to, these bronze or copper breastplates were not going to conform to us. To stand against Satan, stand up to the standard of God or stand for something on behalf of others is right acting, acting in the character of God...holy.

Peace is tucked in here between fact and faith. This is a little difficult to explain but worth the time to try. As we look at the weapons of our warfare we see that truth and righteousness come before these shoes of peace and then what follows is faith,

*"In addition to all this, **take up the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."*

Ephesians 6:16

What is so important to realize in this message is that in between the facts of truth and righteousness and faith, the all out attack of resistance of the enemy is in this place with God that is not bogged down with all the information, responsibilities and rituals and constant pounding of extended faith. This place that Paul is taking us to is a place that many Christians by-pass and never realize that they are missing a huge component of what God has provided for them. As I was meditating on this thought I was reminded of a nursery rhyme that we used to say with my three girls, it goes like this:

One Little Monkey

Three little monkey's sitting in a tree, teasing mister Alligator, "You can't catch me." Along comes mister Alligator quiet as he can be..."Snap!"

Two little monkey's sitting in a tree, teasing mister Alligator, "You can't catch me." Along comes mister Alligator, quiet as he can be..."Snap!"

One little monkey sitting in a tree, teasing mister Alligator, "You can't catch me." (Now this is where it gets real interesting)
Along comes mister Alligator, quiet as he can be..."Snap!"

One little monkey sitting in a tree...(This monkey had the peace of God!)

Putting On The Shoes

"Stand firm then...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Ephesians 6:14a-15

- **Having shod/fitted** (5265) (*hupodeo* from *hupó* = under + *déo* = to bind) means literally to **bind under** and thus means to **bind under one's feet as in putting on shoes or sandals**. To shod fit one's foot is an aorist middle participle, which means that **we have to do so on our own accord**.

Sometimes we miss the whole picture. Here, Paul is saying, "There's a way that the result of properly fitting shoes is having an awareness of the Gospel of Peace." It is so easy to by-pass this simple but important point. Something we do as a Christian is that we have "events" with Christ rather than a readiness with him. There are a lot of hurting feet in the church today because so many people don't understand the practicalities of their stance against the enemy. We want these shoes to fit perfect, tight and tested, when the battle is raging there will not be time to bend over and tie your shoes.

New Shoes- My wife Carol taught first grade for several years. I loved to **watch little boys** who are about **five and six years old** when they got a brand **new** pair of tennis shoes. **They want to race everybody**. They are so into these shoes they felt like they have increased their speed by at least ten miles an hour. When we put on these shoes today, you will feel like there is potential to run this race with honor, dignity and plenty of victories.

Paul's Observation

When Paul is relating this portion of the armor with the believer's in Ephesus, it was illustrated

daily in the outpost of Roman encampments pushing ever outward to expand the Roman empire. The incredible flair of the Roman soldier wardrobe created an awe and curiosity. Paul had the, (somewhat), privilege to observe and know of these details up close and personal while being chained to soldiers in prison. He would have had the time to study and overhear of the warfare, the strategies and weapons that these guards participated in. The Roman guards that Paul was chained to, in Acts 12, most likely painted many colorful pictures of warfare and uniform detail throughout his stays.

Two Features of The Feet

When in battle, the protection of the **feet and ankles** consisted of two parts: (1.) the sandals or **Caliga**, which are heavy-soled hobnailed military shoes or sandals which were worn by Roman legionary soldiers and auxiliaries throughout the history of the Roman Republic and Empire. and the (2.) with **Greaves** that were fitted to the shin part of the legs, (metal plates covering the lower part of the leg), and designed to defend them from any danger. The greave began at the top of the knee and it extended down past the lower leg, all the way to the upper portion of the foot. These greaves, or boots, (1Samuel 17:6), were made of brass, and were in almost universal use among the Greeks and Romans. (Albert Barnes. Barnes NT Commentary)



If you were taken down by your legs, your whole body was taken down. A bruised leg meant that he would be impaired in his fighting and his ability to respond to the enemy. The greaves protected them from danger. If you are not protected by the peace of God, then you are bruised and broken, you have many damages to you that keeps the rest of you vulnerable, faulty and potential failure.

Killer Shoes

The Roman soldier wore the **Caliga**, a heavy shoe that had leather strings or straps that were attached at the arch and side of the foot which were then drawn up and tied around the foot and ankles. Sometimes these studded hobnail's were an inch to two inches long. The iron hobnails hammered into the sole served **three purposes**:



1. To reinforce the caliga,
2. To provide the soldier with better traction, and
3. To allow the soldier to inflict damage by kicking with it.

The sandals had a thick group of nails that would sometimes be one to three inches long which would support them in loose soil and other terrain. Sometimes it would be made of two pieces of metal on the top and bottom.

Get Dressed

"Stand firm then...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Ephesians 6:14a-15

- **Preparation/Readiness- *hetoimazo***- which was used in classical Greek in the sense of establishment or firm foundation. When the foundation is properly prepared, anything can stand secure on it. This portrays the Roman soldiers men of war who had their shoes tied on very tightly so they could be firm footed. In this case, it gave the soldier the advantage, a firm stance in time of battle. An additional view if being *hetoimazo* is a readiness, preparedness of mind, the preparedness which comes from the Gospel whose message is peace. This is a foundational thought of having the mind of Christ and one who claims to be His. In context to the scripture, this foundation is the **gospel of peace** with God through reconciliation through Jesus Christ (Eph 2:17) which causes us a sure foothold in the battle we face and will win!

Here's another way to read this scripture:

"Because I have the gospel of peace close to my heart and deep in my mind, there is a readiness that is in me like feet properly fitted with the best weaponry for victory."

Land Mines: One of the common military practices of the Roman soldiers was their version of land mines. They would plant sticks in the ground which had been sharpened to a point, burying them just beneath the surface of the ground so that they could not be easily seen. When those who came to face the Romans began to engage in battle they would step on these points, causing great pain as you can imagine, if the soldier's foot was pierced, he could not walk and if he could not walk, he clearly could not fight. Too often we are not wounded in a way that brings death, just in away that causes our efforts to become futile and defeating. The Roman soldiers thick soled sandals protected their feet from the same predicament as their enemy.

There are at least **68 countries** today that are threatened by land mines. Over **110 million** land-mines of various types — plus millions more unexploded bombs, shells and grenades — remain hidden around the world, waiting to be triggered by the innocent and unsuspecting.

Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia have suffered 85 per cent of the world's land-mine casualties. Overall, African children live on the most mine-plagued continent, with an estimated 37 million mines embedded in the soil of at least 19 countries. Angola alone has an estimated 10 million land-mines and an amputee population of 70,000, of whom 8,000 are children. Since May 1995 children have made up about half the victims of the 50,000-100,000 anti-personnel mines laid in Rwanda.

Know The Story, Keep The Story

"Stand firm then...with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Ephesians 6:14a-15

- **Gospel** (2098) (*euaggelion* from *eú* = good + *aggéllō* = proclaim, tell) It is a good message, not based on if you liked it or not but was it right, was it complete, does it lead you to the next part of your life? In the first century it was good news of any kind.

In the OT and also among the Greeks, *euaggelion* was used for the **proclamation of news of victory and the death or capture of the enemy!** When a child is born or a

wedding takes place we make great proclamations. But when the enemy was defeated or destroyed a letter was sent out proclaiming what had happened. No news was greater or more loudly proclaimed.

During Paul's time of writing of this letter, the Cult of Caesar worship was in full swing, it had become a state religion of the Roman empire. He was worshiped as a god. When the emperor's birthday, or the accession of a new Caesar was announced or proclaimed, the event was designated by the word *euaggelion* or "good news." Here Paul takes the word from secular production and applies it to his message, the message of salvation. This is great news, it is the "good news" of all time!

Too many Christian's have experienced salvation without the satisfaction of victory. As we stand, that status is enhanced by the support of the new that we carry. Our *euaggelion* is just loud talking is it is not two things, "good" and "news."

This Peace Goes Down

This peace will go to the main sectors of your life's wellbeing and keep you! This is bad news for Satan and the spirits that will attempt to attack and latch on to you. Not only will it protect you but it will place it "**under your feet!**" Too often there is an attempt to allow Satan to present himself more than God has allowed him to be. Of course he can accuse you, by why would he have to bring accusations toward you that were untrue? Because he runs out of ammunition. He attempts to destroy you through your mind and your heart. He knows where the head quarters of your life is and where the supply line of your life is.

- **Peace** (1515) (*eirene* from verb *eiro* = **to join or bind together that which has been separated**) literally pictures the binding or joining together again of that which had been separated or divided and thus setting at one again. Peace contrasts with strife and thus denotes the absence or end of strife.

Peace is a revealing factor, if it is not ruling, (LISTEN: This is not the absence of conflict, this is the absence of finding peace in the storm), **then God is not ruling!** This is a tough thing to hear but a true reality. We can medicate for peace, we can neglect our need for peace, we can create constant chaos and call it peace, but this peace passes all understanding.

The presence of chaos and the absence of peace do not always mean that the enemy has attacked you. It could be a signpost that you have neglected or violated some principle of scripture and the will of God. It is worth studying out and seeking God for the knowledge and wisdom of what it is and what to do.

Two Kinds of Peace

1. Peace With God

Because of Adam's sin, we are all affected, we all bear his likeness.

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—"

Romans 5:12

The way God sees it, all men are hostile toward Him and at war with Him. We struggle with this message, we compromise it, we investigate it, we argue it, but it is the gospel

of Jesus Christ, the gospel of peace, which can bring about reconciliation of man to God and establishment peace. This is the only message of establishing peace. No matter how many of billions of dollars the great humanitarians raise, it cannot heal the sin nature and it will not transform the world. They will only distract and soften the blow of the true inner reality.

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
Isaiah 52:7

True peace, the real peace can only come through the good news of Jesus Christ. **Those who know Jesus Christ have learned to be at peace with God.** This knowledge that God loves us and accepts us is an incredible reassuring venture of life, not one to only live but one to share out loud!

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**"*
Romans 6:6-8

That has got to blow you away! Thank you Jesus! But that's not all,

*"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! **For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!**"*
Romans 6:9-10

What has the justifying of His blood done for us?

- **We shall be saved from God's wrath!**

What is the consequences of those who have not experienced this justification through the Blood of Jesus?

- **They will receive the wrath of God!**

What were we described as before we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, Jesus?

- **We were enemies of God!**

What is the result of being reconciled in this life?

- **We shall be saved through His life!**

What does "shall be saved through His life mean?" Does it mean that one day you and I will receive the grand ticket of heaven and we will endure this life the best we can, making choices that doesn't hurt anyone and hopefully it will buy us a better way there? Or does it mean that in this life, while doubt, death and sickness is threatening our whole life existence that we stand up and say...no shout, "Jesus has already overcome you and I too shall through the work of Christ on the cross! Health, life and

well being, be restored in the name and LIFE of Christ!"

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

Two Kinds of Peace

- 1. Peace With God**
- 2. Peace Of God**

It is possible to have peace with God and not have the peace of God. The peace of God is different than the peace with God. Many people have experienced peace with God by accepting the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, but they are not walking in the peace of God that He wants to demonstrate in their life.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

- **Keep/Guard-** *phroureō* (5432)- to guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight.

When the peace of God is ruling in your heart and mind you can forge your way into areas that used to hurt you and cause you to run. With the peace of God you can stand your ground and complete the mission that God has called you to.

The enemy will try to destroy your idea of victory in your life. Satan will attempt to keep you stuck in your pit, in the darkness where he rules, where peace does not rule. Satan wants you to limp. He wants to kick you so hard that you cannot walk or you cannot run. You are unprotected when peace does not have its place.

Where The Peace Needs To Rule

- 1. Peace Needs To Rule In Our Hearts**

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

Colossians 3:15

- **Rule-** *brabeuō* (1018)- to be an umpire; to direct, control, rule

Greece was known for the Olympics and other athletic games in the ancient world. The judges or umpires of those events were considered *brabeuo's*, an umpire or referee who judged the athletic games. What's purpose of this illustration? Paul tells us that the "Peace of God" rather than the "Fear of Men" will call the shots and decisions in our life. It is telling us, "Let God's peace call the shots in your life."

Peace is a weapon, it is not just a nice experience or fond memory. It is a weapon, not a coincidence of the planets lining up just right. It enables you to be "content" no matter what state you are in. It assists you when you are

brought before magistrates and rulers, and you will have words to speak that are correct, powerful and life changing.

Satan takes advantage of areas not yet yielded or trained in our hearts. Hearts contain the "feelings," the hurts and knee jerk reactions to people, places and things.

2. Peace Needs To Rule In Our Minds

Our minds contain the "memories" things that are defined, terms, statements and vivid memories.

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."
Isaiah 26:3

Satan would love to manipulate these two places so that God's peace would not rule in you. He would love to keep you on a roller coaster ride for the rest of your life, breaking up relationships, causing you to make bad financial decisions, causing you to remain helpless at making healthy decisions for your life, pushing you into dark corners, depressed, full of fear and defeated. God's peace is a weapon and Satan hates it! WE have got to let the peace of God "rule" in our hearts and minds.

Maertens Janss and Jan Hen Drickss

Both put to death at the stake, at **Delft**, in **Holland**, A. D. **1572**

The city of Delft, in Holland was an evil and murderous place that loved to torture and kill people of God. Maerten Janss, by trade a corn porter, (a truck driver by our standards); the other, Jan Hendritkss, born at Swartewael, a steersman on ships. They both had become God-fearing men who loved God with all their hearts and took on the passion and responsibility to share that good news with whomever the Lord directed their heart.

Because of that passion they were both imprisoned at Delft, where they had to stand in their faith for almost two years. There they suffered an incredible amount of affliction, intimidation and distress, from the city leaders to those who were suppose to be leading the community to Christ. For two years they firmly stood against accusations and proposals that if they would stop this nonsense and quit this ridiculous phase then they would be released and no harm would come to them. But if they continued to tell the community that there was a need, no, a demand that people receive Jesus Christ personally into their heart to have a relationship with God rather than going through the priest of the church, they would suffer more. They were not silenced nor did they weaken. As a matter of fact, they became even more confident that Jesus Christ was Lord and faithful.

The leaders of that community could not stand it any longer, but decided to put an end to this thorn in their flesh. The local priest who had been enraged with them and a bitter hatred that drove their conscience pronounced them guilty of evil in court and demanded that they be tied to a stake on top of a scaffold that was to be erected in the market place and be burned to death.

On the February 5, 1572, (436 years ago), both Maertens Janss and Jan Hen Drickss were brought upon the scaffold to die. The town clerk read to all the people that no one could speak to them or they would face the same death and their family would lose all property.

They took a hot rod iron or tool out of the coals and seared Maerten Janss' tongue but he still drew in breath and overcome the pain to cry out to those who stood to watch. He amazingly and boldly proclaimed,

"Thus I must now testify to the truth; for if I had not cared for my salvation, I would have escaped much sore conflict and obtained pardon; but now I have fought a good fight, finished my course, and kept the faith, and henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness."

Then he cried,

"O Lord, be merciful to me poor sinner. Who am not worthy to suffer for Thy name, but Thou hast made me worthy thereto."

Finally he exclaimed,

"O Lord, receive my spirit into Thy hands."

This was his last words as he passed out from the heat of the fire.

For fear of more expression, Jan Hendrickss was also seared on his tongue but was also able to speak, as he cried out to the people there right before his post was set on fire,

"Now is the time, now the truth must be fully sealed," (many other words were spoken,)

There was a great clamoring and people started running around with great confusion, so the lords, who filled with fear, caused Jan Hendrickss to be brought inside, until the commotion and turbulence of the people had subsided.

After that, Jan was once again brought out completely gagged. They hurriedly fastened him to the stake where the flames consume his last breath. After the fire had subsided, their dead and half-consumed bodies were brought outside of the city to a place called Gallows Hill where execution took place. Both of them were separately fastened to a stake, for food for the birds of the air. -From Martyr's Mirror (to read more about others feel free to read some incredible details found at: www.homecomers.org/mirror/martyrs134.htm)

Jesus, The Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 refers to Jesus as the **Prince of Peace, and He wants to lead your life today.** With the peace of God ruling in your heart you can walk or run through difficult resistance...no, you can stand when the whole enemy is coming against you, trying to take you out at the knees. During the difficult times of life you can face the joy of the peace of God's love at the same time. Times that look devastating, horrible and unwelcome, but there is a song of peace in our heart. Satan doesn't want you to have

God's best and God's best is His peace that He gives you.

"¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."

Ephesians 2:14-18

Look at what Jesus said at one of the most confusing times of his disciples short experience. That first day of the week, the doors locked for fear of the Jews and the disciples were together and Jesus shows up, :

"Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Luke 20:21-23

Jesus establishes the ministry of reconciliation with them. He begins with, "Peace be with you!" What does that mean? In a little capsule Jesus puts it all together for them and describe three "Flags," if you will, that are indicators of the lack of peace.

1. **The Assurance of Godly Direction Is Peace.** Jesus is saying, "This is what God did to me and now I'm sending you to do the same...peace is with you, go do it!" If you do not have the direction of God in your life you are most likely without peace.
 - The Question I should ask myself: "Do I have peace in my journey in life?" If not perhaps I'm not on the journey or obedient to the journey God has called me to.
 - Often we receive God for peace, power, protection, purity, healing, restoration. But your call is to bring the good news of peace with God through Christ Jesus!
2. **The Availability of the Holy Spirit Is Peace.** Jesus breaths on them and spoke these words, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The absence of the Holy Spirit's work in your life will transfer as an absence of peace. The working of God's Spirit in your heart and mind will always leave a residue of peace.
 - The Question I should ask myself: "Am I attracted to peace?"
3. **The Advancement of Relationship With Others Is Peace.** Jesus enforces one principle: forgive people, they will be forgiven, don't forgive them, they are not forgiven. When you are willing to release people of their trespasses or mistakes you are welcoming peace into your life. If not, you will carry the weight of that broken relationship and will struggle with people you have conflict with.

- The question I should ask myself: "Will I bring peace?"

We need to be suited up with the armour that God has provided for us. We need to be clothed with the peace of God to protect us from the attacks of the enemy. As we grow, the confrontations and challenges will attempt to make us take a lighter challenge and face a weaker enemy. But God has equipped you to fight the giants in your land. Through His peace there is no going back, there is no retreat and there is no stupid battle. Standing your ground is standing God's Word! How's your feet? Are you holding firm?

Peace over sickness: You might be standing and facing an enemy of sickness. He is attempting to take your life. He whispers into your ear that you will not recover. The medical doctor doesn't have any more hope or that you have a short time to live, but there's a peace that passes all understanding.

Peace over depression: You might be challenged with depression at a level that you think there is never going to be a good day come back into your life. You have dealt with the challenge of what to do. Fear has taken over so many times you are ashamed of how many times you have broke down and cried. Jesus, the prince of peace is standing there.

Peace over the lack of direction: You have just lost perspective. It's like something has come and twisted every direction into a brick wall. It seems like Satan is on one side of you head and the Word of God on the other that there is a tennis match going back and forth. But, Jesus, the prince of peace is in the house!

The storm is blowing and the enemy is saying, "I've got you now!" But you are standing in faith, you are standing on God's Word. You are letting the "Ruling" peace of God reign in your heart and mind. He is saying, "That's not my report!" "That's not what I am saying." The peace of God not only moves you through the difficult times, but I believe He delivers you from them.

Satan is ruthless in his attacks. He comes to accuse your mind and heart. He comes to take down your confidence in God and His Word. He challenges you with questions,

- "What makes you think God will hear you now?"
- "Why do you think that God would be concerned about that?"
- "Why do you feel like you want to try again, you'll only fail, don't you remember how that "feels"?"

This peace of God puts spikes in your shoes. It gives you traction, it will hold you steady against the enemy! Why so many people fail at this point is because they don't see how something seemingly so unrelated could have such a great affect on the outcome of an all out war. When they are learning to let the Peace of God "RULE," it will change your life. When you resist panic. When you turn from a million doubting questions. When you refuse to entertain the consequences if you are wrong. The you will see the hand of God. That peace can and will rule in your heart and mind.

I find it interesting that many people do not have peace when it comes to their finances. And one of the reasons is because Satan steals their peace when it comes to giving. He tells them, "you are going to go bankrupt if you give. Give it up right now. You are

going to lose your witness in the community if you keep doing this. God is not going to respond to you financially, you can't expect that from Him. Don't sow your money to God by giving it. You should hold on to it...yes, hold on to it because I'm giving you words of revelation and something bad is going to happen. Satan is robbing you and stealing your potential, your seed and your future.

You need the armor of God, you need to protect your feet and shins and you must learn to plant your feet in when the enemy is blaring with all he's got. Don't you move! Don't step one foot away from what God is giving you and what God is telling you to take.

Make Use of Your Feet

This peace is a divine weapon from God that assists in your battle for your life and the community around you. The peace of God can and will rule in your heart and mind.

***"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."
Romans 16:20***

This powerful, conquering peace that keeps your foot on the devils neck is for every believer to have and to walk in. Instead, many walk around defeated, afraid, fearful in constant condemnation and turmoil. But God wants to crush, *suntribo*, which comes from the idea of treading the grapes, "smashing and utterly crushing." It is also the act of "snapping, breaking, and crushing bones." If you have ever broken a bone or ever heard one snap it makes you nauseated and disturbed.

Satan has one rightful position while we are here on this earth, under our feet. We have the right and authority to place him there. He can be subdued, squished and broken. Alone you are no match and you and I were made a little lower than the angels...even the fallen ones. But his crafty and cunning ways have to yield to the peace of God, your lethal weapon.

When Jesus died and rose again, he took the keys of death, hell and the grave. Satan's power was retained under the blood covenant that God made with Jesus by Him dying on the cross and resurrecting again. Satan may attempt to rule over you, but that is NOT THE WORD OF GOD! He is trying to get his threats and illusions into your heart and mind. But don't let him in, only let the peace of God in. That is not to say that you are ignoring reality, that is just saying that reality will and can only come through the peace gate. He will attempt to attack you until your faith is nothing.

The only place that rightfully belongs to the devil is the dirt that is under your feet. You are standing to fight for a life. It's interesting that Paul does not tell us to advance but to stand. It is in our standing that the enemy is defeated. When we leave our post we become trapped in a crossfire of the enemy. No, stand still when the wind is blowing and the storm is attempting to blow you away. Stand when your hope has past your life's experience. Stand when answers are demanded of you and you don't know what to say. Stand when the whole earth moves under you and attempts to topple you. Let the peace of God rule in your heart and mind.

Higher Ground

While I was meditating on this passage I was thinking of the significance of this type of armor. It is low, you really can't use it like a weapon, "Is it that useful." immediately God gave me a picture of my position and the position of the enemy. I am on higher ground. The enemy has to climb to my position. Their position is not standing eye to eye but they are attempting to get high enough to take ground. The first of my armor that they could encounter is my feet. My battle will and can be done in a great way with my feet. Why bend down over in an unbalanced position to fight my enemy when I can push him back with the thrust of my foot. Under my feet, under my feet!

When the ancient Roman soldiers marched into town, the sounds of their short, heavy steps equally resounded in rhythm as it echoed down the cobblestone and marble streets. The intimidation and consistency of unity commanded attention and respect. They were there on a mission and were not going to do less than have complete victory. Their stomping and pounding let everyone know that they meant business and their confidence became world renown. He's under our feet!

Closing:

Illustration of Peace - Jim Walton was translating the NT for the Muinane people of La Sabana in the **jungles of Colombia**. But he was having trouble with the word **peace**. During this time, Fernando, the village chief, was promised a 20-minute plane ride to a location that would have taken him 3 days to travel by walking. The plane was delayed in arriving at La Sabana, so Fernando departed on foot. When the plane finally came, a runner took off to bring Fernando back. But by the time he had returned, the plane had left. Fernando was livid because of the mix-up. He went to Jim and launched into an angry tirade. Fortunately, Walton had taped the chief's diatribe. When he later translated it, he discovered that the chief kept repeating the phrase, "I don't have one heart." Jim asked other villagers what having "one heart" meant, and he found that it was like saying, "There is nothing between you and the other person." That, Walton realized, was just what he needed to translate the word **peace**. **To have peace with God means that there is nothing--no sin, no guilt, no condemnation--that separates us. And that peace with God is possible only through Christ.**