

Ephesians 6 Pt 4 Gospel of Peace as a Defense

Jesus

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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...**

- **Belt of Truth:** 2-Fold Defense against Satan
 1. **Live Truth:** Walk in Light/Satan can't touch us
 2. **Know Truth:** Able to Know/Refute Satan's lies with God's Word
- **Breastplate of Righteousness:** 2-Fold defense against Satan
 1. **Positional Righteousness:** Knowing our Righteous Standing in Christ
 2. **Practical Righteousness:** Walking in Righteous Practice by the Spirit
- **Prepared w/the Gospel of Peace:** 2-Fold Defense against Satan
 1. **Testimony** My life before Jesus
 2. **Witness** My life after now after receiving Gospel

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace
Defense against Satan. Hates God. Hates humanity.

Q. How is the Gospel a defense against Satan

A. When we share we are walking in the Truth of who we are/When we don't we aren't

IOWs When we remain silent we expose a chink in our Armor to Satan

Matthew 28:19 [Command] **...Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age**

Feet prepared with the Gospel of Peace? That means ready share
Sharing the Gospel that brings peace between God/man is our responsibility...

2 Corinthians 5:17 ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have **become new**. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ [Testimony of our Witness], and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20

Now then, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself by taking our sin

1 John 2:1b ...we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for **the whole world**.

John 1:29 ...John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who **takes away the sin of the world!**"

- Jesus died for the **whole world**/His blood was sufficient, yet...

The whole world will not be saved
Only those who hear/receive the Gospel will be saved

John 3:16 ...God **so loved the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Gospel: Good News

1 Corinthians 15:3 [Gospel def.] ...Christ **died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, 4 and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures...

A man died on a cross to pay for our sins/rose again on the 3rd day to prove it

Romans 10:15 "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING **GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!**"

A Prerequisite to Sharing our Faith is Salvation
We can't share what we don't have ourselves

- If we are saved we will share...

John 7:38 He who believes in Me, **as the Scripture has said**, out of his heart will **flow rivers of living water**

Q. Why is sharing so important

A. Heaven/Hell: No higher stakes than eternity

Preach the Gospel at all times...if necessary, use words?
GARBAGE...We are commanded to use Words!

- We are not trying to win people to our church
- We seek to win people to Jesus Christ to save them from hell

John 14:6 I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- **Testimony** This is the Gospel and how it changed my life
- **Witness** What we have **seen and heard since...**

Luke 2:20 ...the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had **heard and seen...**

Luke 7:22 Go and tell John the things you have **seen and heard...**

1 John 1:3 ...that which we have **seen and heard** we declare to you...

Acts 4:20 ...we cannot but speak the things which we have **seen and heard...**

Acts 22:15 ...you will be His witness to all men of what you have **seen and heard...**

Trusting the Innate Power [Dynamite]
Imbedded within the Gospel/Our Testimony/Witness or what we've seen/heard...

Acts 1:8 [Jesus instruction before ascending] ...you will **receive power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Romans 1:16 ... I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for it is the **power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...**

Revelation 12:11 ...they overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the **word of their testimony**

Why is this so hard?

1. **Warfare:** The enemy wants to keep as many as possible from getting saved
2. **Fear of Man:** We don't like to be Rejected/Shunned or Mocked ...like Jesus was

Fear God by Obeying God
We will go/We will speak/We will trust God's Spirit for both Words/Boldness

Luke 21:14 ... make up your minds **not to prepare** beforehand to defend yourselves; 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

We have Holy Spirit Boldness knowing sharing is God's will
We are responsible for sharing/Results are up to God

- **Peter prayed for boldness** in the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:29 ... Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your **word with all confidence...31And when they had prayed**, the **place where they had gathered together was shaken**, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.**

- **Paul prayed for boldness** in the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 6:19...and pray on my behalf, that **utterance may be given to me** in the opening of my mouth, to make known with **boldness the mystery of the gospel...**

- **We can be sure** the Spirit will give us boldness to share
- **We can be sure** Jesus Himself will be with us as we share

Matthew 28:20 [Context Go!] ... **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age."

What does sharing the Gospel look like in Shoe Leather?
Sense of Urgency while Resting in the Spirit

- **Pray first:** Pray in faith knowing it is God's will that **none perish**

Ezekiel 33:11 ...'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, **I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] ...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Take a load off..

- **Our Responsibility:** Pray/Share
- **God's Responsibility:** Save/Sanctify. IOWs We catch em He cleans em

John 6:44 No one can come to Me **unless the Father who sent Me draws him**; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Gospel Example: Testimony/Witness

- **Before Jesus** saved me... I was without hope. [no glory to the devil]
- **How Jesus** saved me... People, circumstances, etc. How/When Gospel presented

1 Corinthians 15:3 [Gospel def.] ...Christ **died for my sins** according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

A man died on a cross to pay for my sins/Rose on the 3rd day to prove it worked
He did the same for you. *Do you believe that?*

- **After Jesus** saved me... How my life has changed. Death-Life, Dark-Light

Do you want to repent and receive Jesus as your Savior?
All the time giving glory to Jesus!

John 12:32 If I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw all men to Myself**

- **Gospel Introduction:** What about you?
 1. **Where are you** at with the Lord?
 2. **Why should God** let you into heaven?
 3. **Why did Jesus come**/Why did He die? **Did He resurrect?**
 4. **What are the implications** if what He said and did are true?

There is no Salvation without the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Romans 10:9... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has **raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Acts 4:33 ...with great power the apostles **gave witness to the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus.

No Salvation w/out Repentance
Turning from Sin/Turning to Jesus

- God-granted repentance opens the door to Forgiveness/Salvation

Mark 1:15 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**

2 Corinthians 7:10 ... **godly sorrow** produces **repentance leading to salvation**

Luke 24:46 [Post-Resurrection] Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached** in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you...

Pray for a Ready Heart

This change can happen w/in the time of sharing or way before you even got there...

- **We simply plant the Seed of the Gospel...**

Matthew 13:5 [Stoney Heart] Some [Seed] fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. **20** [Explained] ... he who received the seed on stony places, this is **he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while.** For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

- **Those that don't count** the cost/fall away. **False-converts...**
- **Those that count** the cost/Realize depth of their sin/Receive and Bear Fruit

Matthew 13:8 [Other Seed...] fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **...23** [Explained] But he who received seed on the good ground is he who **hears the word and understands it**, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Humility is the Stuff of Good Soil
Knowing our Need

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Thief on the Cross 11th hour simple faith of a repentant sinner...

- **You are King.** Though I see You dying but...
- **You will rise** [Resurrection] to receive Your Kingdom
- **I am a sinner** [Stopped mocking/Took responsibility/Proclaimed Jesus sinless]
- **I want to be with** You in Your Kingdom, or...

I'm a sinner. You're the Savior. I believe
Jesus: Surely today you will be with Me today in Paradise

- **Q.** What can I do to "till the soil" of someone's heart?
- **A.** Pray Satan's blinders are taken off their mind...

2 Corinthians 4:4 ... [Unbelievers...] whose minds the **god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

1 Samuel 12:23 ... as for me, far be it from me that I should **sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you...**

- **Q.** What can I do to **"till the soil"** of someone's heart? **A.** Pray
- **A. Begin with God's Law** to convict the heart

John the Baptist preached the Law of God
The Law prepares the way for Grace

John 1: 7 [John the Baptist] came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him [John] **might believe.** [in Jesus]

- Q.** John came to save so why did he preach the Law which cannot save?
A. The Law reveals our need of a Savior

Romans 3:20 ... by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the **knowledge of sin.**

We cannot know the Goodness of God before Realizing the Badness of us...

Romans 2:4 ...the **goodness of God** [should] lead you to **repentance?**

- **Using the Law:** Have you ever...
 1. Lied? Liar
 2. Stolen? Thief
 3. Lusted? Adulterer
 4. Lord's Name? Blasphemer
 5. Angry w/out cause? Murderer [Mat. 5]

Begin with the law. Should a Holy Righteous and Just God let liars, thieves, adulterers, blasphemers and murders into Heaven with Him? [If they say yes go by a Pepsi]

Penalty for sin is death. All have sinned and fallen short
John preached the Law [Problem] making way for Grace/Jesus [Solution]

Acts 19:4 ...John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should **believe on Him who would come after him**, that is, on Christ Jesus."

John: I can't finish this...but One is coming that can. **Jesus**

- John condemned listeners with the Law which could not save
- Jesus followed John offering Grace the only thing that can

John 1:29 "Behold! The **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God...**

After the Law does its gruesome work...Hopefully they will want a cure

We have the privilege of offering the Beautiful Gift of God's Grace

- **Saved** from God's wrath/Born Again to New Life
- **Forgiven**/Experiencing God's kindness forever
- **Sealed** by Spirit of God for Heaven/Power to overcome daily sin

Glorifying God/Enjoying Him forever

Spiritually Satisfied and Complete...Ready to share the Water of Life

John 4:14 ... whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a **fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"

Our Feet must be Shod/Ready with the Gospel of Peace as a Defense against Satan
When we Remain Silent we Expose a Chink in our Armor