ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course SECTION 11 – The Armor of God & Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 45 - The Armor of God Part 5

Ephesians 6:10-17 *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; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Many teach about the feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace saying you should always be ready to share the Gospel with someone. It's not what it's referring to; that you should just be ready to share your faith with somebody. The Holy Spirit's been teaching us by revelation that each piece of the armor is a revelation and is only put on by you entering into the manifestation of that revelation.

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.*

The word shod there from the Greek literally means to bind up. I picture it this way. When you go skiing or snow boarding you put on special boots. They need to be nice and tight and firm. Without them being strong and firm, holding your ankles steady, you can't ski. You'll just flop all over the place. You have to have a very firm footedness.

We need to have this firm footedness; this inability to be shook. It's like being nailed to the ground. You could lean far in any direction and never fall over. That's what he's talking about here. We are to have a firm footedness so that when the enemy comes against us he can't knock us down. He can't knock us over because we are so firm footed.

This firm footedness, this stability, this promptness and readiness is produced by the good news of the Gospel of peace. There is a firm footedness, a readiness that is produced by the Gospel of peace. We need to know what the Gospel of peace is. The Bible talks about it many times.

What does the word "Gospel" mean?

The word Gospel means the good news.

We think it's the good news that Jesus came to bring peace. People have this image of Jesus that He's tip-toeing through the tulips like some hippie to bring peace as the prince of peace. They say He would never be involved in war; He'd never be involved in this or that. They don't know the real Jesus. The real Jesus is a God of war. He's not a God of passivity. They equate peace with passivity, and that's not what this is talking about.

The word peace there comes from the Greek word eirene, and it literally means at one again.

Ephesians 2:15-20 AMP *By abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the enmity [caused by] the Law with its decrees and ordinances [which He annulled]; that He from the two might create in Himself one new man [one new quality of humanity out of the two], so making peace.*

16And [He designed] to reconcile to God both [Jew and Gentile, united] in a single body by means of His cross, thereby killing the mutual enmity and bringing the feud to an end.

17And He came and preached the glad tidings of peace to you who were afar off and [peace] to those who were near.

18For it is through Him that we both [whether far off or near] now have an introduction (access) by one [Holy] Spirit to the Father [so that we are able to approach Him].

19Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God's [own] household.

20You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone.

There was an enmity between God and man. There was an enmity between the Jew and the Gentile. There was a separation, but Jesus through the cross broke down the wall of separation, He broke down the enmity, and He brought man into Himself. He brought man into Himself and He made man one with Himself. He made peace, not passivity. He caused them to be eirene, one again.

Jesus came to bring us into God, into the God-head; and God in us, Christ in us. The Bible says the mystery of the Gospel is this: Christ in you the hope of glory. We explored this revelation that we are one, that we have really been brought into the God-head. The whole fullness of the deity, the God-head, continues to dwell in bodily form and we are in Him made full and have come to the fullness of God in Christ. We too are filled with the God-head.

The Gospel of peace is the good news that God and man are one again. That's the Gospel of peace; that's the good news. The good news isn't just that you can have your sins forgiven. Jesus didn't come just to forgive you of your sins. He didn't come just to get you out of hell. He didn't come just to get you into heaven, He didn't come just to give you a mansion. He came to bring you and I into Himself, to join us with Himself, that the two may become one flesh: Christ in us the hope of glory, that oneness with God.

How is the firm-footedness of the Gospel of peace produced?

This firm footedness is produced by the revelation of the good news that we are one with God.

This is the Gospel of peace that gives us a firm footedness and sure footedness that we will not be shaken ever again. When you come into the revelation of who it is that God has made you and me, the good news that we are at one again with God, there is no circumstances the devil can bring your way that will knock you down. There is no event that will take place, there is no devil, there is no demon, there is no person he can use, there is nothing that'll shake you. There is nothing that'll move you. It's a firm footedness that is produced by the good news of at one again.

The firm footedness that we have with God, the firm footedness of feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, only takes place when we begin to enter into the experience of being at one again, when we enter into the revelation of being at one again, when we enter into the union with the Father.

Why is it such a weapon? Why is this so strong? Why does this work and why is it that some people are not prone to it? Why is it that so many Christians are knocked off guard so easily? They don't understand the whole strategy of the enemy. They don't understand the vulnerability that we have when we fail to come into this revelation and the revelation of being at one again with God and what that produces.

A number of years ago I was invited to a high school campus to speak two weeks in a row at a Bible club which had about 70 students in attendance. I only had about 15 minutes to teach each one of those sessions. I knew most of them were from a Baptist background. I knew they didn't know anything about the power of God so I figured the first week I would preach a good solid Word on Jesus, and then the second week I really wanted the power of God to fall.

The first week I went in and preached. They were loving the preaching, and they were pretty excited about me coming back the next week. Before I came back the next week I was praying and seeking God over the campus. I started to pray and go after demon spirits you would expect to find on a typical high school campus: drugs, alcohol, lust, pornography, and rage. As I prayed against these spirits on the campus I knew the force of my prayers were going out powerfully, but I didn't feel like I was getting the breakthrough. I continued to pray and press deep in the spirit. I wasn't just going to give up.

I continued to pray and press deep when all of a sudden I had a full blown, open vision. I was standing on a field across from the campus, and I saw the campus. Out from either side of the campus I saw two giant tentacles and they wrapped around each other at the top. Attached to these giant tentacle type things were all these small demon spirits. They had names written on them: hate, rage, unforgiveness, suicide, drugs, alcoholism, perversion, homosexuality, and fornication. When I saw them I thought I knew exactly what to go after, so I started praying against them. As I was praying I could see the spirit I was going after, which was attached to these two tentacles, get hit. It would flutter as if in the wind by

the force of my prayers. It kind of encouraged me, and I kept praying. As soon as I stopped praying, it would just slowly stand back up. I thought it was weird and I went after another and the same thing happened.

I began to realize that these little demon spirits were getting their strength from these two giant tentacles. So I asked the Father, "What are those things?" He said, "Son, those are the two demon spirits that every other spirit get's its strength from." I didn't see any names written on them, so I continued to pray. I asked the Lord to show me what they were. He began to reveal these hidden spirits. These are spirits that people don't generally see.

I began to pray for God to reveal to me what these two demon spirits were, because I realized if I could break the power of these two demon spirits that the power of all the other demon spirits would be easily broken. After quite an extended period of time, my eyes were opened. The whole time I'm having a vision; all a sudden my eyes were open and I could see beneath the ground, beneath the surface. I saw where these giant tentacles came and they kind of ended in ends that looked like plant bulbs.

What are the two demon spirits that every other spirit gets its strength from?

The name of the first was insecurity; the name of the second was inferiority.

Written on them were their names. God said these are the two demon spirits that every spirit get's its strength from, and these are the same two demon spirits that were loosed upon Eve in the Garden of Eden, and it's the same two demon spirits that the devil is releasing upon His people all the time. If we can break the power of those two demon spirits, every other spirit will easily fall. I had never seen this in the story of the Garden before.

Genesis 3:1-6 *NOW THE serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?*

2And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden,

3Except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.

4But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,

5For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity.

6And when the woman saw that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate.

The devil came along and he started having a conversation with Eve. He twisted the truth which is how the devil always comes. Adam and Eve walked with God. They talked with God. They had an

unhindered interaction in the spirit realm being fully naturally and fully spiritually. They were totally connected to God, totally at one with God. The serpent came up and began to twist the truth. He said, "Has God said that you shall not eat of every tree in the Garden?" Eve responded quickly and said, "No. God said we could eat of all trees; we just can't eat of the tree in the mist of the Garden or touch it lest we die." Then the devil said, "You will not die." He accused God of lying to Eve, and at that moment the devil released upon Eve the spirit of insecurity. Everything Eve knew to be true, everything Eve based her reality upon was based around what God had said to them. Everything she believed was based upon the truth of God's Word.

Image what would happen if you were 18 or 20 years old and all of a sudden you came home one day and your mom and dad sat down. Then they said, "By the way, you're not really our kid. As a matter of fact we got stuck with you. We didn't even like you." Then you find out everything they said to you, everything they told you, everything your life was based on was a lie. All of a sudden you don't know what is true, what is real.

Your security is based upon what you know to be true. That's why the Bible says we are to know the truth and the truth will make us free. The truth is Jesus. His Word is truth. Heaven and earth will pass away, but not one dot or tittle of His Word will pass away. His Word is sure, is firm, it's solid. The devil came up to Eve and told her everything she believed about the Word which God had spoken was all lies. All of a sudden he released upon her the spirit of insecurity. Suddenly she didn't know what was real. She didn't know what to believe. She now felt insecure; and the moment you feel insecure you're going to do something to make yourself feel secure again.

God did not create us to ever know insecurity, and we cannot stand it. At the moment we feel insecure we will grab for something to make us feel secure. The revelation of at one again, the experience of being at one again, is going to remove the vulnerability that entered into mankind in the Garden of Eden. It is going to reverse and close the door to the very thing that was opened in the Garden of Eden. It'll shut the door to the devil and the devil's power against your life so that no matter what he throws your way you will never again be knocked around.

For Further Study:

Romans 5:1: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.