



Go for God!

“SPIRITUAL WARFARE!!!” (Part 4)

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

“Shod Your Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace!”

- The Bible declares that humanity is at war with God, but God has offered us a peace treaty through His Son Jesus Christ. Tragically we took the “Prince of Peace” and nailed Him to the cross. Think about the following passages:

- John 3:19- And this is the condemnation that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- James 4:4- Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- Ephesians 5:5-7- For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

- 1 John 3:8- He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

> In the midst of the violence, wickedness, hatred, and evil in our world Christians are to shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (Ephesians 6:15)

- Jesus said in John 16:33- 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.” Jesus gives us peace, but the world is not a peaceful place.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE *THRIVES IN Silence*



2 out of 3 Americans have **NEVER** talked about domestic violence with their friends.*



*NO MORE and Avon Foundation 2013
All prevalence stats courtesy CDC 2010



Take the vow to end domestic violence now at PutTheNailinIt.org

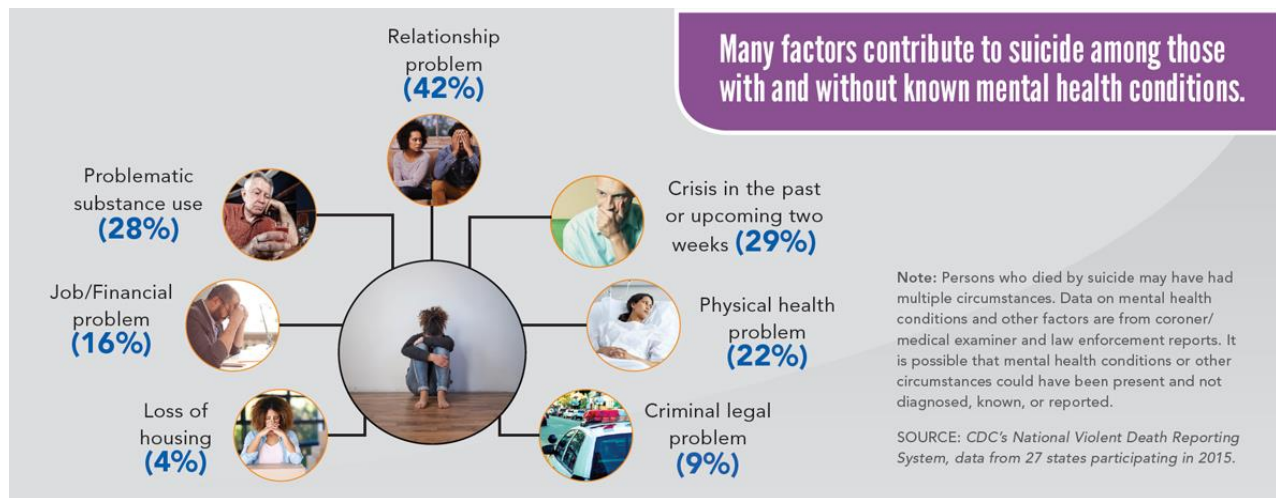
- Alcohol Abuse Statistics

- Every day, 261 Americans die as a result of excessive alcohol use, averaging 95,000 deaths per year, globally at 3.3 million.

- According to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics:

- Over 70,000 drug overdose deaths occur in the US annually.
- \$35 billion federal budget for drug control in 2020.
- 19.4% People have used illicit drugs at least once.

- According to CDC's National Violent Death Reporting system:



- To help people with the various issues of life Paul encourages Christians to “Shod Your Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace!” (Ephesians 6:15)

In this article of our armor there are four keys to a Christian soldier's victory over the enemy in people's lives:

> Victory Key #1 – “SHOD YOUR FEET!”

As Christians we engage in spiritual warfare against the **DEVIL** (Eph. 6:10-20); the **FLESH** (Gal. 5:16-26); and the **WORLD!** The **ARMOR OF GOD** is not only for our **SURVIVAL**, but more importantly for the **SALVATION of SOULS!!!** We do not war against people, we war against the devil!

- Let us observe Roman military footwear:



Roman footwear played a major role in the development of the Roman Civilization. Better shod armies travelled further across rougher terrain. The Romans were pragmatic and devised footwear suitable for military activities. The Etruscans had developed brass tacks and the Romans adapted these to hobnailed footwear suitable for foot soldiers required to march on hard and rough terrain. The shoe tack turned the humble sandal into militarized hobnailed sandals ideal for protection and traction to optimized grip for the marching soldier and combatant.

- Christians must put on this military footwear, every day when you put on your shoes say to yourself, “Left shoe is GOSPEL, right shoe is PEACE!”

> Victory Key #2 – “PREPARATION” TO SPREAD SALVATION!

– In the Greek is *hetoimasia* which denotes "readiness," "preparation"; of having the feet shod with the "preparation" of the gospel of peace; it also has the meaning of firm footing (foundation), the *gospel of peace* itself is to be the firm footing of the believer, his walk being worthy of it and therefore a testimony in regard to it.

Thus Paul writes in Romans 10:14-15 - *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? 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!"*

> Victory Key #3 – GIVE THE “GOSPEL!”

- What is the GOSPEL? - The gospel is the joyous good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Greek word translated as gospel means "a reward for bringing good news" or simply "good news." In His first sermon in Nazareth, Jesus used a passage from the Old Testament to characterize the spirit of His ministry: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor" (Luke 4:18).

- Is the Spirit of God upon you and has He anointed you to preach the gospel? Remember Jesus said in Acts 1:8 – "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- The gospel is the saving work of God in His Son Jesus Christ and a call to faith in Him (Rom 1:16-17). Jesus is more than a messenger of the gospel; He is the gospel. The good news of God was present in His life, teaching, and atoning death. Therefore, the gospel is both a historical event and a personal relationship.

> Victory Key #4 – PREACH “PEACE!”

- What is Biblical PEACE? – The word PEACE is found 397 times in the Bible. A word with several different meanings in the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament meaning of peace was completeness, soundness, and well-being of the total person. This peace was considered God-given, obtained by following the Law (Ps 119:165). Peace sometimes had a physical meaning, suggesting security (Ps 4:8), contentment (Isa 26:3), prosperity (Ps 122:6-7) and the absence of war (1 Sam 7:14). The traditional Jewish greeting, shalom, was a wish for peace.

In the New Testament, peace often refers to the inner tranquility and poise of the Christian whose trust is in God through Christ. This understanding was originally expressed in the Old Testament writings about the coming MESSIAH -

Isaiah 9:6-7 - *For unto us a Child is born,*

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The peace that *Jesus Christ* spoke of was a combination of hope, trust, and quiet in the mind and soul, brought about by a reconciliation with God. (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- Such peace was proclaimed by the host of angels at Christ's birth - Luke 2:14 - *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

Jesus in His SERMON ON THE MOUNT said in Matthew 5:9 - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed means happy,* when we spread the *gospel of peace* through the *Prince of Peace* it makes us happy and brings great joy to others.

The word "peacemaker" was seen like a political position, an ambassador of peace—someone who ended wars, *brought physical safety and health to people, sought people's well-being, and brought justice.* Jesus is the Prince of Peace because Jesus makes Jew and Gentile one, breaking their dividing wall of hostility and reconciling them (Isa 9:6; Eph 2:14-17).

- *What is the opposite of a peacemaker?* The opposite of peacemakers is *troublemakers, division makers, agitators; malicious people who are mean-spirited, stirring up strife, creating conflict.*

- One commentator writes, "Peacemaking is not the Absence of conflict. Peace in the Bible is never to be confused with pacifism. Avoidance of strife. Never are we instructed to run from conflict. Putting our head in the sand, hoping that the conflict will end, only delays the inevitable."

- *For example the biblical prophet, like the political ambassador, stood at the crossroads of advancing armies with potential good news.* John the Baptist was such a prophet who was to guide people into a way of peace - Luke 1:79 – *"To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."* Unfortunately, not all who heard him wanted to heed his message. He was killed, and so was Jesus crucified - Colossians 1:19-20 - *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

- Jesus offers all His followers a supernatural PEACE, He said in John 14:27 - *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.*

- The apostle Paul later wrote that such peace and spiritual blessedness was a direct result of faith in Christ - Romans 5:1-2 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

- Let us witness Peter in Acts Chapter 10 as he had *his feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace!*

> Articles of PEACE are found in:

James 3:13-18 - *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Galatians 5:22-23 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

Hebrews 12:11 - *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

2 Peter 3:14-15 - *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation*