

# The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

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## Intro

- **We are continuing our study through Eph 6:10–17 to understand...**
  - How to operate in God's strength, rather than our own
- **Today we are talking about what it means to equip our feet with the readiness of the Gospel of Peace**

## Today's Scripture

### Ephesians 6:15 CSB

<sup>15</sup> and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace.

- **To understand this “Gospel of Peace” reference we must look back earlier in Ephesians 2:12–18** “At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, 15 he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. 16 He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death. 17 He came and proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

- **We see Paul expound on this elsewhere...**

- Romans 5:1 *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 *“Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, “Be reconciled to God.””*

- **So the Gospel of Peace is the message...**

- That we can have peace and relationship with God
- That we can have peace and unity with one another

## **Our common problem...**

- **Our lives are filled with hostility, anxiety, and chaos**

- Chaos in our daily lives and relationships
  - *Internal conflict of interests/needs/desires*
  - *External conflict with other people*
- Fear and uncertainty about the future

- **All of this disrupts our “footing”**

- We feel unstable and anxious

- We have days and seasons where we are easily “pushed back” and defeated
- It’s difficult to “stand firm” and have confidence in what we know to be true
- **We don’t have anything to dig into the ground with – everything we try and use to bring stability is itself unstable**
  - Relationships
  - Money
  - Planning

## **Understanding “readiness for the Gospel of Peace”**

- **The shoes of a warrior in Paul’s day had ground spikes – it was actually one of the key things that gave both the Greek and Roman empire their victories**
  - Provided traction and stable footing
  - Made it difficult to push them back
  - Gave them the ability to grip the ground and advance towards their enemy
- **In the same way the Gospel of Peace...**
  - Brings peace and stability to our mind and spirit through knowing we have protection, help, and loving relationship with God

- Enables us to stand against lies, fears, and doubts that our spiritual enemy pushes against us – because the Gospel puts the focus on Jesus’ work and empowerment of us
- Enables us to push back and advance against the chaos by leveraging the unity we have with other brothers and sisters in the faith

## **So we must reject all attempts to find stability and traction in anything from this world**

- And choose instead to anchor ourselves in the peace provided and empowered by God through His Spirit and the church

### **Today’s challenge:**

- **Identify what you have been trying to use for “traction” and stability in your life?**
  - To help you identify it, complete this statement “Everything will be fine as long as I have \_\_\_\_.”?
- **Make the choice to abandon finding traction and stability in things that come from the chaotic/shifting world around us**
  - You must challenge the assumption that there are things other than God and the church relationship that can give you stability

## **If we all made the choice to “find our footing” through our relationship with God and unity with other brothers and sisters**

- We would have more peace in our present circumstances
- We would have more support in times of struggle and adversity

## REFLECT

### ***Let's take a moment to pray***

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our attention and lead our conversation, helping us see and understand what He wants us to apply in our lives.

## APPLY

### **Process the passage together with these questions:**

- According to Ephesians 2, how did Jesus break down the "wall of hostility" to create peace between people?
- How does maintaining unity with other believers help you stand firm against spiritual attacks?
- What is one practical way you can rely on God's peace rather than worldly security this week?

### **Where we want to "land the plane"**

- Just as a Roman soldier relied on spiked shoes for traction in battle, we need the readiness of the Gospel of Peace to keep us from slipping when life gets chaotic. This peace provides stability through two vital connections: our reconciled relationship with God and our unity with other believers. We must stop trying to find security in shifting circumstances and instead anchor ourselves in the finished work of Jesus. By doing so, we gain the spiritual footing required to stand firm against fear and anxiety.