



Armor of God

Session 4 – Sandals of Peace

March 8, 2022

Ephesians 6:11 - 13: Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Review:

We've studied the helmet of salvation and the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

1. Why is the letter to the church in Ephesus focused on spiritual warfare?
2. What are some of the wonderful aspects of our salvation as given in Ephesians 1?
3. Why do we need to wear salvation as our "helmet"?
4. How does Satan try to defeat us in our minds, our thoughts?
5. What lies does he often try to tell you?
6. How do you defeat him?
7. What is the shield of faith?
8. What particular scheme or schemes does Satan use to try to cause us to quit or be discouraged, and how can the shield of faith overcome those schemes?

Ephesians 6:11: *Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

So far we've looked at two of Satan's schemes:

1. He lies to you about who you are. This scheme is against your mind, your thought patterns.
2. Satan attempts to throw difficulties and troubles on your path to dishearten you and cause you to quit.

God calls us to peace; Satan calls us to chaos

James 1:6 – 8:

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

The last thing the enemy wants for you is peace. Why?

Philippians 4:7:

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

Notice this is God's peace, not just some phony peace the world promises you.

John 14:27:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

What is the difference in God's peace and the world's peace?

God's Peace

- A permanent peace given by a trustworthy God.
- It is firmly grounded in the Word of God.
- God doesn't ignore the root cause of sin; he forgives and heals it.
- God gives peace in the midst of chaos. It is there in spite of the circumstances.

The World's Peace

- Empty promises that bring temporary comfort.
- Fleeting and changes with circumstances.
- The World's peace disappears when there is any conflict or crisis.
- Ignores the root problems; has no answers for them.

Isaiah 54:10:

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed; yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

Jeremiah 6:14:

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace.

Psalms 119:165:

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV):

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 32:17:

The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

Types of peace in the Bible

1. Peace with God

Romans 5:1:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

2. Peace of God

Philippians 4:7-9:

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

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

John 16:33:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

3. Interpersonal Peace

2 Corinthians 13:11:

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Hebrews 12:14:

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Romans 12:18:

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

The Sandals of Peace – Ephesians 2:11 – 4:16

Ephesians 6:15:

...and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.



The Roman Soldier's Footwear: Caligae

It may look flimsy, but the caligae was designed so that a soldier could wear them all day in the hot weather without discomfort. The leather strips were made so that they did not rub against certain parts of the feet. They could march all day and not have blisters. The underside was fitted with studs to enable him to walk on rough or steep ground. These hobnailed shoes also enabled the soldier to dig his feet into the ground and hold his position next to his companions.

We must have special shoes on our feet in the spiritual battle with Satan. Shoes that will enable us to make it through whatever we face in a day

In this passage Paul provides a test case of peace as he addresses the hostile attitude between Jews and Gentiles.

Ephesians 2:11 - 22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

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

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Paul is telling them that Jesus came "and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near." His Gospel of Peace is for Jews and Gentiles. We both have access to God.

Ephesians 3:14 – 21:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 4:1 – 7, 11-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

How does Satan try to destroy your peace?

- Through causing you to doubt your relationship with God. *This destroys your peace with God.*

John 10:28:

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

- Through worry and anxiety, especially about the future. *This destroys the peace of God*

Matthew 6:25 – 27:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

1 Peter 5:7:

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Philippians 4:6:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

- Through causing discord with others. *This destroys the interpersonal peace we have because of Jesus.*

Hebrews 12:15:

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Ephesians 4:26 – 27:

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

The quote in this verse is from **Psalm 4:4:**

Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

Another translation (EHV) says:

You may be upset, but do not sin. When you are on your beds, speak to your heart, but remain silent.

Anger gives the devil a foothold because overnight anger leads to bitterness.

Matthew 5:44:

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

Jesus tells us to go the extra mile and not only let go of the anger you feel and be willing to forgive those who have offended you, but to love them with his kind of love and pray for them.

How do we wear the sandals of the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace?

- Make certain that you have peace with God.
- Confess on a daily basis any worries or anxieties you have and ask God to give you his peace.
- Seek to resolve any conflicts between you and anyone else, and if possible, restore broken relationships. Don't let those little things fester!