

PEACE

July 21, 2024

Ephesians 6:10-17 The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Shoes give stability and they help us to move or take action. The best pair of shoes we can put on is our spiritual shoes found in Ephesians 6:15, "feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Readiness: the state of being fully prepared for something, a willingness to do something.

Luke 12:35, 38 NIV

³⁵ "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak."

As we read earlier, readiness comes from the gospel of peace. Being ready means being in the Word of God and having a genuine relationship with the Savior. And keeping your focus on Jesus brings true peace, because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Hebrews 12:1 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus

Peace: calm and tranquility of our soul amid difficult circumstances.

This should define believers; this is our resting place. We stand firm in the gospel of peace. We stand firm in our relationship to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Peace is what we have because Jesus lives in us.

Philippians 4:7 NIV

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

To explain peace you need to experience the gospel of peace. This is the ABC's of the gospel:

- A. Admit you are a sinner and fall short of the glory of God.
- B. Believe that God sent his only son to live a perfect and blameless life only to be sent to the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.
- C. Come to Him and accept the peace He provides through his forgiveness.

John 14:27 NIV

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.

When our peace is based on our situation we are prone to fall. When based on the Savior, we can stand firm. The peace we have through Jesus stabilizes us. Without Christ, we live in anxiety and uncertainty. When we take our eyes off of the cross we forget that we are sons and daughters of the living God. However, if we stay focused on Jesus we have the assurance that all things work together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. We know He provides all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 29:11 NIV

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace

When we walk into battle we bring the peace of God. We are literally in a fight for our lives. Everyday we need to put on the full armor of God so we are not caught off guard and shaken up by chaos.

Matthew 5:9 NIV

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

When we enter a situation we bring with us peace, because we have Jesus, the Gospel of peace. We bring Shalom, which means peace, wholeness, completeness, health, safety, harmony, and prosperity. When we use shalom as a greeting, we wish the other person complete peace and well-being.

Is the enemy keeping you from experiencing the peace that surpasses all understanding? It may be time to examine your life. Is there something that has a hold on you in the spiritual realm? Maybe an unhealthy relationship, addiction, unforgiveness, blaming others for your problems. Or you may be blaming God. Only you know your true heart. And God knows the secrets of your heart better than you do.

Jesus provided freedom on the cross, He said to lay our burdens on him. We no longer have to carry pain, shame, unforgiveness, or any other accusations the devil has. We start with the Belt of TRUTH, He said he would never leave us or forsake us. That is His promise. We have the Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS. We are made righteous by the blood of the lamb that takes away the sin of the world. Our feet are fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of PEACE. The good news is that we are forgiven!

Psalm 103:11-12

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

The enemy was defeated at the cross. We were reconciled to God the Father and given the full armor of God: truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God. Stop living defeated. Time to live in our inheritance of freedom.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 NIV

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you.