

1. Stand by Preparing Your Feet for Spreading the Gospel of Peace – “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (15).
 - a. Readiness for active propagation of the Gospel is the most effective means of combatting satanic powers.
 - i. Isaiah 52:7 “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation...”
 - ii. 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, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”
 - b. Believers are called to prepare themselves to share the Gospel.
 - i. By His work on the cross, Jesus has bound the strong man so that God's people can plunder the possessions of the strong man by freeing the captives from Satan's domain by announcing the good news of God's salvation (Matthew 12:29; Mark 3:27).
 - ii. Believers must prepare themselves with a thorough knowledge of the Gospel.
 - iii. Believers must prepare themselves for giving the Gospel by giving the Gospel.
 - c. It is ironic in a context of warfare to find a reference to peace as a weapon, but the content of the Gospel is a message of peace.
 - i. The warfare that believers are called to engage in does not view people as the enemies but as the victims.
 - ii. Unbelievers are in bondage to a threefold form of evil: the devil, the flesh, and the world.
 - iii. At the heart of the Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ can be our peace (2:14).
 - iv. Spreading this good news means opposing the work of the principalities and powers who endeavor to blind the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4).
2. Stand by Taking Hold of the Shield of Faith – “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (16).
 - a. Faith in God and His Word is the believer's shield from the evil one's attacks.
 - i. Faith is vitally important in the life of a believer – “But without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 1:6).
 - ii. The object of our faith is the critical component in moving mountains, not the size of our faith (Matthew 17:14-21).
 - iii. Our faith is often sporadic, inconsistent, and short-lived; It is prayer and fasting that can focus our faith for continual strengthening and renewal (Matthew 17:21).
 - b. The Shield of Faith is a critical piece of our armory.
 - i. Throughout the OT the shield was commonly used as a metaphor to describe God's power and protection of His people.
 - ii. Genesis 15:1 “After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”
 - iii. 2 Samuel 22:31 “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.”
 - iv. When we trust in God He shields us from harm just as He shielded Israel from Pharaoh's army (Ex. 14).
 - v. Faith opens our eyes to spiritual realities (2 Kings 6:15-23).
 - c. As believers place their faith in God, they receive divine strengthening (Ephesians 3:16-17).
 - i. Faith is the way believers step into divine empowerment and experience a greater measure of Christ's victorious presence in their lives.
 - ii. In contrast to the demonic powers of the Ephesians day, God's power is personal, received by faith in a personal God, not by performing a ritual or conjuring spirits.
 - iii. Believers receive their strength from Christ's power (6:10).

- d. Faith in God shields us from the flaming arrows of the evil one.
 - i. The fiery darts of the wicked one can be extinguished.
 - ii. Romans would cover their shields in leather and soak them in water before going into battle to extinguish any flaming arrow that stuck in their shield.
 - iii. The Ephesian god, Artemis, promised rain down fiery arrows upon his enemies; this passage of Scripture would have been a great comfort to Ephesian believers.
 - iv. We are to pray that God would deliver us from the evil one (Matthew 6:13).
 - v. Jesus has prayed for us that we would be protected from the evil one (John 17:5).

Conclusion:

1. Are you prepared to share the Gospel to those who are still trapped by the wicked one?
2. Where are you placing your faith?
3. Are you taking the time to prepare your faith before the battle?
4. What lies of the devil have penetrated your armor? What Scriptures do you need to meditate upon to repel them in the future?