

Ephesians Series

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"The Gospel Shoes of Peace"

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Turn to Ephesians chapter six. We continue in this study in verses ten through twenty of chapter six on spiritual warfare. Let us hear the word of God:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace in addition to all, take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missals of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make know with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

We have already seen in our previous studies that in this passage, verses ten through twenty, that Paul is telling Christians to live as they should in this world as lights in the darkness, as husbands and wives that are to manifest the love of God to each other, as parents and children who are to love one another as God has called them too and raise those children in the nurture and discipline in the Lord as he has called them, to live at work as faithful workers with a good attitude and as a witness of Christ and those who are over others to be gracious and patient and kind in their rule. He says we are facing a spiritual battle and this battle is not against flesh and blood, as we often think, it is not really against people: others in our lives. It is rather a spiritual battle over our hearts and minds, where in every one who has not come to Christ is attacked and ruled by the evil one as Jesus said, "You are of your father the devil."

But also this one comes to attack the believer to draw our minds away from Christ, to cause us to hate, to fear, to worry, to despair, and to yield to the temptations of sin that come our way, to entrap our lives once again into evil, and to dishonor the name of God which he dearly desires to do. We are in a spiritual warfare. We cannot always see it with our eyes, but it is true. We have seen that we have to put on the belt of truth before we go out to battle. This belt, which is really the truth of God that has been revealed to us in all the scriptures and in Jesus Christ who is the truth himself, we have to put on that belt as the foundation to give strength to our core and our back in order to do great effort to live for God in this world. This means we are to be convinced of God's truth as true and committed to build our life upon this truth no matter what happens, no matter what others think. We are to put on the belt of truth and say, "God is true and to live for his glory his way is the best thing I can do and the right thing for me to do in this world no matter the sinful desires of my heart or what others think or do to me."

We put on the belt of truth and we put on the breastplate of righteousness knowing that as Mitch taught so well in Sunday School, (and I hope that those of you who haven't been coming will come to that study on spiritual depression from Dr. Lloyd-Jones), Mitch is teaching us this and he taught it again this morning that the righteousness of Jesus Christ covers every believer in Him to make us

acceptable to God as if we were perfectly righteous. Through faith in Christ, God gives us gifts: the forgiveness of sins, the atonement for our sins, the gift of eternal life, but he also gives us a breastplate of righteousness and as we believe that and place it over our heart as we go to battle each day, we can know that God is for us justly and not against us; that he accepts us in His Son.

But we come now to the next piece of armor that he mentions in verse fifteen: putting on or having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. First he talks about the belt around the waste and the covering of our chest and now he talks about our shoes. We need a certain kind of shoe to live for Jesus Christ faithfully in this world. Now the Romans soldiers had special shoes. It is interesting to go back in encyclopedias and other things and see the different kinds and pictures of shoes that people wore in those days, but the Roman soldier's shoes or sandals were a very special kind of shoe. They were very thick on their bottom with leather. They were sort of sandals but sort of shoes as well because they were laced up and strengthened around the ankle and heel and these shoes had reinforcement in various parts: sometimes on the toe and the heel of leather or brass to protect their feet in war; whether they were marching and sharp sticks were put into the ground to pierce the soldiers foot, these leather sandals protected them from those sharp sticks. And when they were in battle, the covering, sometimes on the heel, of brass or bronze or on the toe, protected them from being wounded by a blow from the enemy. Sometimes these shoes or sandals were covered over on the very top of the foot with a shin guard or what is called a greave that was usually made of bronze or brass that covered the shin and had a lip that went over on the foot to keep the foot from being wounded by a sword or a spear.

Many of these shoes of the Roman soldier had very thick leather soles in which were driven hobnails of brass or bronze that gave them greater traction when they were marching. Their feet did not slip. They could march faster than any other army on earth at that time. And when they were in battle these hobnails enabled them to have traction on the ground as they were fighting their good fight. To help us be stable, to be able to stand and not be pushed around, so Christians are to put on special shoes, that they may march steadily and stand solidly in battle against Satan and his wiles. This was on Paul's mind in prison again because he was chained to a Roman Soldier in jail when he wrote this letter to the Ephesian' church and this Roman soldier probably had that belt of truth and that breastplate of righteousness. As Paul was sitting next to him and contemplating what sort of armor he had and he looked at his shoes and he said, "You know, those shoes are better shoes than anyone else has in war. We need gospel shoes," so he taught the Ephesian' church that they needed to put on shoes of the gospel of peace.

He says in verse fifteen: "Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace." That word is used once in the New Testament and there is some debate by commentators on what it means, but its root word is the verb for prepare. And that is used many times in the New Testament. For instance, when Jesus told the disciples to prepare themselves for a journey, they were to get ready; they were to have everything done, and what they needed. They were to go and prepare the Passover Feast. They were to go and make sure that the room was rented, that the food was provided, that the furniture was there, so that they could eat the Passover together. Jesus even said, "Go find the donkey that God has prepared for me to ride on into Jerusalem."

It means everything is ready; everything is there. It means a good foundation of preparedness for battle. But what is the gospel of peace to do with this? The preparation of the gospel of peace:

what does that got to do with spiritual battle and warfare? Well obviously it is talk about the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the gospel of peace. There is something about the gospel of Jesus Christ that prepares us for battle. When we look at history and we see and read sometimes what happened in World War II, or the War Between the States, or the war of the Revolution, Korea, Vietnam, and even our Iraqi Veterans, we find that many of them testified of having an odd peace as they went into battle. Not everyone did, but many of them did. And they will tell why they think they felt that way, especially the World War II veterans, though they may have had fear in their hearts regarding the fighting itself, they had a peace that they were doing the right thing, because they were protecting their family back home; they were bringing peace to the world; they understood what they were fighting for, and there is a certain peace, a certain foundation, a stability that comes in knowing what your are fighting for. There is a peace of mind even that comes, though you may lose your life in battle, you are saving the life of your child or your family.

I believe that the gospel of peace means several things in this passage: the shoes that we put on, this preparation, being ready, founded and grounded on the gospel on the gospel of peace that enable us to go to battle, and there are four things that I want to mention this morning about that. The first one is this: I believe that this “gospel of peace shoes”—the preparation of the gospel of peace shoes—is referring first of all to the Christians’ peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the peace of soul that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings to those that believe it and believe in him. This is necessary to fight against Satan’s wiles and deceits and temptations to bring us into sinful behavior with our thoughts, our words, and our deeds, towards others. We need to understand that if we believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to bring us to peace *with* God than we already have the very best thing that is possible to know or experience in this life. You have to settle on that. That you are at peace with God, and this is the greatest thing in the world: that knowing your own heart and mind, the thoughts that you have had about God or other people, the things that you have said to others that have murdered them with your tongue, the deeds that you have done that your are ashamed that anyone would know about in public—that all these things have been placed upon the Son of God when he was nailed to the tree and that in that moment of death upon the cross He experienced the wrath of His Father unto death for you—for you who believe in him; that your offenses may be taken away from God and that the war between you and God would be over; that you would be at peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is the greatest thing in the world to know that you have the forgiveness of the good and holy God against your evil, to know that He loves you when he could hate you, to know that His presence by His eternal omnipresent and almighty Spirit is with you and in you all the time as a believer, that you have become a temple of the living God everywhere you go; to know that God has promised to care for you and move heaven and earth and history and every person in the universe to cause all things to work together for good for you who are called according to His purpose who love Him. These are the things that bring peace of mind because you have peace with God and no matter what happens to you in this world there is an eternity of unaccountable, immeasurable, infinite years in our terms of living in the presence of God’s love and kindness and the fellowship of all those that believe in Him forever and ever. To have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest thing this life has to offer and until you settle that in your mind and believe it in your heart the things of this world, and the sinful attractions of this world, and the temptations that Satan brings into your life to forget God and sin

against him and others—until you believe that— they will still have power over you. But when you come to believe that you are at peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord, they lose their power to dominate you as they once did. And you start to think against them and think against Satan and his wiles.

To put on the gospel shoes means that you remind yourself everyday that you have once for all been justified by faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that therefore you have peace with God through Him. And it is in believing in His gospel of peace that he has brought you, that you begin to find strength and peace of God as you live. Satan may tell you that you are unworthy of peace with God. He whispers in our minds, “You are too sinful. This gospel is too good to be true and you are too inconsistent for God to love you. God is sick of you. God is enraged against you.” At such times his deceits deny the gospel of peace and make you question whether or not it is true. And therefore he undermines your stability of living a continual relationship with this God. And then he has you, because he causes you to doubt the goodness of God, the sufficiency of Jesus Christ for your soul, and makes you to be tempted to feel alone and without God and his help to fight the good fight of faith, to live for his glory. If he can get you to believe this temptation: to deny the goodness of God and the grace of God in Jesus Christ, then he can convince you that you are alone in battle, he can confuse your mind in how you are thinking, and the next thing you know you are fallen into a sin: a word, a deed, that you greatly regret.

This is why you have to put on the gospel shoes: to be able to stand firm against the wiles and the deceits of the Devil and his attempts to bring you into sin and dishonor of God. You have to put on those shoes all the time, everyday. As I was thinking through this idea of gospel shoes I could not help but think of this picture of myself when I was a little boy. I am sure all of us have similar memories like this. I think probably when I was five I had cowboy boots. I got them for Christmas and I loved them and wore them every day. And I had them fixed where my skates were attached to them, so in the morning when I got out of bed the first thing I did was put my feet in those boots and start skating around the house and went outside and skated down the street. They were wonderful! And I could go anywhere with those boots and skate.

But it is ridiculous to think that I would go outside without any shoes on in cold weather or on a gravel driveway or something like that where my feet would be hurt. You don't go out to work barefooted or at least I hope you don't. When we get up in the morning we put on our clothes and we put on our socks and our shoes and then we go out to do battle. That is a simple illustration and that is all Paul is saying here: you got to put on those gospel shoes so that everywhere you go you are supported by the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is how you live: you live in that gospel of peace with God—that eternal life is yours, eternal love from such a holy God who has been so satisfied in the death of His Son for you that he loves you with all his heart. This eternal love is so wonderful and comforting that there is nothing that Satan has in this world that is more attractive than that.

He brings temptations to our minds, sometimes lustful thoughts, or a situation that we see that generates the temptation to sinful lust. Sometimes he brings opportunities for sexual immorality. Sometimes he brings the opportunity to lie to get something that we really want even if we are lying to another person whom we are supposed to love. He brings opportunities to sin, to cheat to get what you want, to be lazy at work and still get a pay check as if you worked honestly, on and on we go; he tempts us to escape from the sorrows and pressures of this life through drunkenness or drugs or obsessive

behaviors. He tempts us to explode in anger to control those around us who are starting to get out of our control. He tempts us.

But compare the satisfaction of those sins with the gifts of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Is it worth it? Or is eternal life and the blessings in Christ such greater blessings and happiness that you are no longer attracted to sinful temptations...to hate, to attack, to lie, to cheat...that God has given you such wonderful things that there is nothing that you would trade your soul for. Remembering the gospel of Christ reduces the attractive power of sinful temptations and helps us to say 'no' to them—to the world the flesh and the devil. So when you get up in the morning you have to put on the whole armor of God: the belt of truth that you believe in the truth of God as you go out into this world, the breastplate of righteousness that you are accepted in Jesus Christ by God, and that as you go out into this world you need to be standing on the gospel of peace; that, having been justified once for all by faith, you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and all the many and precious promises and blessings that come from that; and getting our minds straight and putting on our gospel shoes is necessary to fight the good fight of faith.

The second thing that we learn from this preparation, this foundation, this being prepared by these "gospel of peace shoes": is that the gospel of peace shoes bring us peace with God and peace of God; putting on the gospel of peace shoes means that we so believe that we are at peace with God that it brings the peace of God to our mind and hearts. If you really believe that Jesus Christ loved you and gave Himself specifically for you upon the cross to bear your punishment that you deserve, the hell that you deserve, to give you the heaven that you don't deserve, and that He did this at the cost of his own life to satisfy the righteous wrath of His Father in heaven, if you really believe that you have peace with God, then you can have the peace of God no matter what is happening to you at the moment, but you have to remember the peace *with* God in order to have the peace *of* God, no matter what Satan is trying to tempt you with: to sin against God. Because of Christ you can know that God is for you and not against you any longer.

Sometimes our circumstances are so difficult that it is hard to believe that we are at peace *with* God, for the question of Psalm 37 and Psalm 73 is this: "Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer like they do?" Why did this happen to Job? Why did these things happen to Paul? Why are these things happening to me? It is hard to have peace of mind and heart, the peace of God when your children are straying, when the economy is going bad, when your retirement has been extended even more beyond a hundred...how do you have peace of mind, peace of heart in such times? We are so tempted to worry about the future as if that could change anything. We are so tempted to be angry about the present and what is happening and we are tempted to lose heart in trying to live a loving Christ-like life with those all around us. Sometimes it seems too hard.

Well, Paul was in prison at this time when he wrote this passage. He was chained to a Roman soldier and he did not know if he would be executed or not at this time, so he trusted that God had His wisdom about this. The Philippian church had forgotten to send food and clothing and some other things to help maintain Paul and they were grumbling and fighting with each other apparently...(nothing so disturbs a pastor's heart when God's people do not treat each other like Christians)... and Paul could not do anything about it. He couldn't communicate, he couldn't get out of jail, he couldn't go fix it; he had to sit there and trust the Lord. He could have gotten angry or depressed, but he didn't and in the letter to the Philippians, he told us how he retained peace of mind in a situation that is far worse than

anyone else here has at this time. He said, "This is how you do it: rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone; the Lord is at hand. Do not be anxious about anything."

Do you have anxiety and worry in your life? Are you divided (which is what that word means) and you are distracted from God because you are worried about this or that? Do not be anxious about anything this man in jail says, "But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God." Prayers...certain kind of prayer...make your request known to God. 'Lord, get me out of this jail! But I thank you that you are in charge and you know what is best, and you have proven it on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and that you are wise and good in everything you have ordained in my life. I trust you.' And he says something strange will happen then: "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

This is not something you do, this is something God does. This is what God does in response to those who exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; believing that you are at peace with God, giving thanks for all that God has done for you in Christ, that he has never one day given you what you really deserve, something happens when you believe God: that you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: God's Spirit brings the peace of God to your mind and heart and it enables you to live. He tells us to find our joy always in the Lord not in people and things, in Jesus Christ and His gospel of peace, not in circumstances. He tells us to pray in our sorrows with thanksgiving to God for His goodness in Christ and His undeserved grace; and he says, if we will do that, the peace of God will come. Our minds will be guarded from living in worry and fear and anger and distrust. A peace that is beyond our ability to understand all the circumstance that is happening to us at the moment, a peace from God will come! And we will say with hope, 'I don't understand! But my God does and I can live as a Christian now. I can trust Him.'

Such thinking, such belief in peace with God results in God giving a peace that overcomes the temptation to lose heart, to quit thinking evil of God and yielding to the temptation to sin. Because we know that sin has nothing to offer us but death and despair and God has given us everything in the face of Christ, Paul could say later on in that same passage: "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." You don't have to yield to sin because the circumstances are bad. You can never say the devil made me do it or you made me sin, because we always do the sinning and it is always against God. Only the peace that passes understanding that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus can help us to think straight in the midst of trial and temptation, to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

We must put on the gospel shoes to have stable minds. We must believe that we are at peace with God and let the peace of Christ rule our hearts, Paul said, and be thankful. As we do this, God promises to work in us, to increase our faith, to give us a peace that is beyond understanding, which enables us to think straight and fight the good fight of faith.

The third thing that these "gospel shoes of peace" means, I think, is that the gospel of peace prepares us to live at peace with men. Satan uses other people to tempt us. Now you may think that is mystical or superstitious, yet the bible says so. We understand what the bible said when Satan entered into Judas Iscariot at the last supper and Jesus said, "What you do go do." And he went out and he betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver because Satan captured his heart and he sinned against Christ. But he is not the only one that was influenced by Satan in Jesus' band: when Peter tried to resist Christ's

statement that He had to go up to Jerusalem and die, Jesus looked at Peter and said, “Get behind me Satan!” And when Peter was going to deny Christ three times as Christ told him, he said that Satan has asked permission to sift you. And then he said, “I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.” Satan does use other people to tempt us to sin against God, to refuse to love God with all our heart, and to refuse to love our neighbor as we should.

Paul was tempted by Satan through others. False brethren and false teachers tried to destroy the work of the church that he had established. He was always writing letters back to Galatia and Colossae, Romans and other places where he had preached the gospel or at least had sent those to preach the gospel to straighten them out from false teachers; messing with the minds of the people of God, disturbing their peace, causing them to look away from Christ alone; he could have despaired but he didn't. Instead, some of his most tender appeals in his letter are to those who were in error and sin. Please, he said, I am convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, but I warn you he says.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is so full of undeserved love, free forgiveness, and humility in Christ humble service to us, that when we remember it, when we put on our “gospel of peace shoes,” it strengthens us to live peaceably with others around us, to be a peace maker and not a peace breaker. So putting on the “gospel of peace shoes” reminds us that we only have to love others and serve others and forgive others like we have been loved, served and forgiven by Christ. It reminds us that a gospel of peace that has been given us by the Son of God is so wonderful that when Satan comes to us through others and tempts us to sin against them, to lose heart, to give into anger, to give into despair, to refuse to speak the truth in love, whatever it may be the shoes of gospel truth remind us how we have been treated by the Son of God and teaches how we are to treat others.

This applies to marriage: the way we think about, speak to and act with our spouse. They may be, in God's providence, an instrument to put a stumbling block or temptation in our path. With parents and children: where our children may be influenced by the evil one to tempt us as parents to lose heart and explode in anger or despair. It might just be living in a fallen world and working or going to school, but there are those around us that come our way and tempt us to forget Christ and how to live in grace and love towards all those around us. And yet, Paul told the Ephesians in Ephesians 4 do not give the devil an opportunity in your speech, speak the truth in love and give no opportunity to the devil he said. Let no ungracious rotten word proceed from your mouth, but only that which is good for edification, according to the need of the moment that it may give grace to those who hear and do not grieve the Holy Spirit; do not give the devil the opportunity in your response to others and do not grieve the Holy Spirit in your response to others.

But how do you do that? Here is what he said, you put on your gospel of peace shoes and “let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” We put on the “gospel of peace shoes” and be prepared to love our enemy; to forgive them while we stand praying, to overcome evil with good: if our enemy is hungry we feed them, if they are thirsty we give them a drink, and we overcome evil with good by putting on the gospel of peace shoes and being at peace in so far as possible, Paul said, with all men. For that is our witness as Christians. It shows the power of the gospel of peace in the way we live at peace.

The fourth thing putting on the gospel shoes means: is that we prepare ourselves to be a faithful witness of the gospel of Christ everywhere we go. There are some that say, "That is not an obligation of the Christian. That is what preachers do and missionaries as they bear witness of Christ to others." When the demoniac was healed by Christ and He cast out all the demons, this man sat unchained and clothed in his right mind he said to Jesus, "I want to follow you."

And what he was saying is that, 'You have done so many great things for me I just want to follow you and be your disciple and help you in your ministry.'

Jesus said, 'No, you cannot do that. Here is what I want you to do: go home to your people and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.'

To the woman at the well, Jesus offered the water of eternal life, to take a drink of Him and find what is true about life in Him. He told her, her sins: that she had had seven husbands and was living in immorality with another man right now. And then he told her that he was the Messiah that had come to establish all the promises of the Old Testament and a new time, a new kingdom, a new place of worship. And the bible said that she went home, this adulterous woman, and told people that knew her about what had happened and about what Jesus had said. And she asked them, "Could this be the Messiah?" And then she led them back to Him.

Everywhere we go we are bearing witness of the Son of God. We have opportunities to explain or to at least say something about Jesus Christ to other people. It may just simply be that you are praying to the Lord for strength or "God bless you" or "I am praying for you." Or it may be that you have opportunity with your child or your family member or long time friend, that you gained a testimony with, to sit down and say, 'You know what, I have wanted to say something to you for a long time: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and He has worked in my heart and life and I want you to know about Him. He rose from the dead. He offers to sinners eternal life. I want you to know Him, because I love Him.'

If we are to love our enemies as Jesus said, the least we can do is bring the gospel to them in some way. And not all of us are equally equipped to do it in the same way. But we are called to bring the gospel to our children even if we are ill equipped. And we are called to bring the gospel to those around us in the way we live and to be ready to give account of the hope that is in us. And I believe putting on the gospel of peace shoes means that we are ready and we are prepared and we are thinking about spreading the gospel of peace to those around us everywhere we go.

Do you think like that? Are you aware that sometimes an opportunity comes to say something of Christ and you have let it go by and later you said, 'You know, I should have said something,' or 'I should have invited them to church or given them a track or just told them: I understand how you feel and Christ has helped me with this. You need Him.' Many of Satan's strategies to entrap us to sin, comes from other people: a bad boss, a sinful spouse, a rebellious child, an unfaithful church member, a dangerous driver on the road. At such times we are to have our "gospel of peace shoes" on and be ready to speak of Christ and be a peace maker instead of a peace breaker and point them, if possible, to the Son of God who loved us and gave himself up for us.

But you have to put on these gospel shoes before you go out the door. Being ready, because opportunities come upon us unexpected; there may be words of grace and encouragement that we can say one to another, or say you are praying for them. It may be that we tell them that there is a way to find peace of mind in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Paul quoted from Isaiah in Romans 10: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tiding, good news of good things." Aren't you thankful for those

people in your life that said something to you about Christ, that prayed for your , or took you to church, or that gave you a bible? Those are all testimonies of God's love for His enemies, to bring His enemies into His family. That is what grace does and He calls us to put on those gospel shoes and remember: our missionary God has brought us to hear of Jesus Christ and then opened our hearts and drawn us into His bosom. And we need to have that same attitude of missionary grace and kindness toward our enemies, God may make them our friends.

So how shall we conclude today on these shoes? Well, I think I will do it this way: if you are a living continuum in an attitude of anxiety of worry and fear and anger and perhaps other sins and you don't seem to have any power over them; they lead you around like we lead a horse around with a bridle in its mouth, then you need Jesus Christ. You need the Son of God to break the power of sin and Satan over your life that is destroying you and those around you, and if you do not turn to Him for help and become at peace with God you will face His judgment without a Savior that is eternal. There is a hell, and you need to turn to Jesus Christ in prayer and repent of your sin and self rule against God. You are opening yourself to the leadership of Satan to bring evil to your life and the lives of others and you need to believe that Jesus' death upon the cross is sufficient to atone for even those sins that you have committed against God. You need to believe in Him and make peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. You need to come as you are.

Paul said, "Having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. That is how it comes: a sinner trusting in Him to make peace for you. And then you can live with the peace of God in your mind and heart knowing that He loves you and cares for you; you can trust Him in the circumstances of your life just as He promised: He causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him who are called according to His purpose; and you can live with peace in this world.

If you are a Christian who is struggling hard with the temptation to sin, you have identified certain sins that you want to overcome, sometimes you seem to have the ability to deal with them and resist them, but other times you find yourself fallen into it again, I have good news for you, and the good news is this: there is some gospel of peace shoes to put on, and if you will put them on everyday and remember the Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, a perfect savior who brings peace to sinners, God will send into your heart a peace which passes understanding and enable you to think clearly and resist the evil one in the evil day.

It is all about Christ and so I close with these words: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes upon Jesus the author and perfecter of faith who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him, think about Him, who endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart. For you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin."

Fight the good fight of faith, put on the full armor of God, look to Jesus Christ, put on the gospel of peace shoes and God will enable you to carve out a life that is honorable to the Son of God instead of one that brings dishonor to His name.