

## THE ARMOUR OF GOD - PART III Feet Equipped for Battle

Text: Ephesians 6:15

**Key Word:** Feet

**Key Thought:** We must Be Both Stable and Also Mobile as a Church

Nothing is more important in the Christian life than balance. Our enemy is well aware that many of our problems are due to a lack of balance. We take little concern for our physical feet. We simply take them for granted. When it comes to armour, we seldom think a soldier's footwear is absolutely essential.

A Roman soldier was required to wear a sandal which consisted of a sole with straps that held the foot firmly to the sole. The sandal also had hobnails or studs connected to the sole. So their sandals provided a firmness of hold to prevent from sliding, slipping and falling.

One of the devices of their warfare was to chisel a piece of wood into a narrow point and place it into the ground in such a way that the sharp point would be almost invisible but yet able to puncture an unprotected foot. Any puncture would bring an immediate severe pain along with bleeding. It usually ended up with infection and inflammation that would put the soldier out of action.

Many Bible interpreters speak of Christians needing to be prepared to take the gospel to the world by wearing these sandals of truth and peace. But we must remember that Paul is alerting them to be properly dressed for spiritual warfare. **Therefore, we need to concentrate upon our stand against our daily conflict with the enemy of our soul.**

The word "**preparation**" (KJV) is of upmost importance for us to understand. John Wycliffe was one of the first translators to understand its original meaning. He translated the word "**In making ready**" which means "**readiness**" or "**being prepared.**" There are other good translations as well.

*"having your feet shod with the equipment of the gospel of peace."*

*Ephesians 6:15 RSV*

The word "**equipment**" carries the double meaning of preparedness and also the element of stability and steadfastness.

*"And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm footed stability, the promptness and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace."*

*Ephesians 6:15 AMP*

**There Are at Least 2 Areas Therefore, Which We must Address.**

## **I. FIRMNESS, CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE**

### **II. MOBILITY**

## **I. FIRMNESS, CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE**

If we are engaged in mortal conflict with a powerful, nimble adversary, we must guard ourselves against falling slipping and sliding. We must learn to stand fast in our walk of faith. **No Christian will survive if they are half-hearted, desiring the benefits of the cross but refusing the disciplines that come with it; wanting privileges but rejecting responsibilities.** Paul told the church to stand firm (Ephesians 6:13).

### **A. Doctrinally**

Are you firm in what you believe? Are you ready to stand upon that truth? Do you stand for the truth of the Deity of Christ? For His virgin birth? For His walk of miracles? Do you stand strong in the truth of His substitutionary, sacrificial, death which cleanses us from all sins? Do you waver when you read the accounts of Christ's resurrection from the dead? Do you offer your body as a temple for the Holy Spirit? Do you believe the Bible to be God's Holy Word for your life? Do you believe Jesus is returning for His bride as well as to judge the world for its sin?

What we believe is very important because it will guide the way we live.

"If we don't believe in something, we will fall for anything!"

Authentic gospel sandals can keep us from becoming unbalanced in our Christian faith. The devil continues to try to loosen our foothold on the Rock of Truth. He is very clever when it comes to deceit. Know what you are to believe and then stand fast upon that truth.

What we believe will ultimately be a matter of life and death. No one can escape the fact that they will someday have to stand before God and make an account of why they did or didn't accept God's Word of truth.

## I. FIRMNESS, CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE (Contd.)

### A. Doctrinally (Contd.)

#### 1552 The Jonestown Massacre

\*\*\* In Nov. 1978, the US Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California visited the People's Temple (a California-based cult) in Guyana. His group went to investigate reports that some of the people were being held against their will. The congressman and his party were ambushed and killed.

A few days later, at Jonestown, Guyana, soldiers were horrified to find hundreds of bodies of cult members who had been shot or had committed suicide by drinking cyanide-based Kool Aid. Rev Jones, 47, lay near the altar with a bullet wound in his head. The death count was 780.

The following brief report was gathered to explain what had happened in those final moments: *"As Jones talked over the loudspeaker on the beauty of death and the certainty that everyone would meet again, several hundred cult members gathered around the pavilion. They were surrounded by armed guards, and a vat of Kool Aid mixed with cyanide was brought out. Most cult members drank it willingly - others were forced to.*

*They started with babies. At least 80 infants and children were fed the deadly portion, and then the adults took it. Everything was calm for a few minutes, and then, as the cyanide-induced convulsions began, it all got out of order. Children were screaming and there was mass confusion. Shortly afterward, everyone was dead."*

\*\*\*

**Most of the dead were people who were searching for truth.** They were "religious" people, and yet they died. What a tragedy!

**Unfortunately, they are not the only ones any are drinking from a well of lies that will ultimately bring about their death.** When the effects begin to take place, the results will quickly take place. Death will be imminent. **If we don't stand upon truth, we must accept the unstable foundation of lies that we stand upon.**

## I. FIRMNESS, CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE (Contd.)

### B. Alertness or Watchfulness

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."*

*II Corinthians 16:13*

Jesus said,

*"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."*

*Matthew 26:41*

We must always be alert and attentive because we have an enemy who walks about seeking whom he may destroy. He is restless and ceaseless in his activities.

We never know when he will attack. We are often not warned of an attack. **We don't know what approach he will take or which direction he'll come.** We must be on our guard especially when we think we are the strongest.

*"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall."*

*I Corinthians 10:12*

We must always beware of the unexpected. Jesus was tempted for 40 days and nights after his baptism in water and the Holy Spirit at the Jordan river. We can all be ambushed by the devil's lies.

*"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 men in their deceitful scheming."*

*Ephesians 4:14*

False teachers abound in our world. There are many devilish schemes looking to find a root in our hearts. But we must stand firm in the truth of the gospel of peace.

## I. FIRMNESS, CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE (Contd.)

### B. Alertness or Watchfulness (Contd.)

*"in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."*

*II Corinthians 2:11*

**We must all be aware that the devil does not mind contradicting himself.** He uses this tactic constantly as a weapon of warfare.

One moment he is quoting scripture and the next moment he attacks its validity as the ultimate truth. One moment he tells us we are not worthy to be a Christian while the next moment he tells us we are so good that Christ didn't need to die - God will accept us on our merits of good works.

One moment he tells us not to overdo it because our bodies need sufficient rest and times of relaxation; then the next moment he condemns us for being lazy in order to ruin our health, keep us from Bible study and prayer and fill us with a carnal zeal. One moment he is applying the brakes while the next moment he thrusts us into wild fanaticism. The devil is a master at extremes. Don't be trapped by his strategy.

## II. MOBILITY

**Alexander the Great** was one of the first army generals to be known for his swiftness. He was a man who attacked with lightning speed. The genius of **Oliver Cromwell** was also found in the fact that he could mobilize his forces in order to gain the advantage over his enemies.

During WWII, the Germans continued to develop tanks that could move swiftly over the rugged terrain of Europe. They surrounded the allied forces before they knew what was happening. The tactic was quickly passed on to the allied forces and soon, Russia (the Red Army); France, England, and the USA were planning swift and carefully strategic attacks.

**One of the tragedies of the modern church is that it moves like a snail when it comes to spiritual warfare.** We are heavy-footed and laden down with many burdens that hinder our advancement of the gospel.

We need mobility to win a world that is fast becoming lost in sin. People are more enthusiastic to arrive at a hockey or baseball game than to attend a church service. Listen to all their shouting and applause. They arrive early and push their way through the turnstiles.

## II. MOBILITY (Contd.)

We must become mobile in our advancement of the gospel. Activity is not necessarily advancement. We cannot remain in a rocking chair experience.

We must also keep to familiar ground in order to advance. Like David, we would be best to enter the field of conflict with a sling and stones that we are familiar with knowing that God has spoken to our hearts.

Our strength does NOT depend upon numbers. It is rather our ability to respond with swiftness to the leading of God. There is a balance that we must maintain. **We can become too firm - so firm and solid that we are unmoveable or we can become so mobile that we break rank and go off by ourselves with no cohesion and no discipline in pursuit of our enemy.** We as God's army must move as one force, one unit, in one direction until we receive further orders to divide and conquer.

We must keep in the balance of truth. Everything must be done decently and in order. We can "soar" but we must beware about "roaming." **Adaptability is necessary without laying aside truth.**

\*\*\* In WWI the British generals and leaders were old calvary men. They could not accept the fact that a war could be won without a major calvary offensive. Their unwillingness to change in their tactics of war caused the slaughter of many good men. They tried to win the war with Boer War thinking.

In WWII France maintained a line of defence known as **Maginot Line thinking.** They set up their forces in such a manner that they thought would be an impregnable line.

They refused to listen to General de Gaulle who had written a book stating that the next war would be a war of movement. France trained their soldiers for defence when they should have been learning offensive warfare.

This mentality caused the collapse of France and almost the fall of the whole free world. WWII became a war of tanks and armoured vehicles that quickly changed their positions.

Our next world war will probably be one of nuclear, chemical or even biological weapons. Star wars do not seem so far fetched. \*\*\*

A hundred years ago the church had a strong voice in the community. Her protests used to be heard and responded to. Today the voice of the church is generally ignored or mocked. Our present **secular world view** needs to be replaced with a **Biblical world view** because we can't survive much longer by continuing on a pathway of ignorance.

## II. MOBILITY (Contd.)

The main enemy of the church today is not **disunity**. It is rather **complacency**. We are living in a "**situational ethics**" society that protests any infringements of its "rights" even though they have been proven time and time again to be wrong.

It is so important that we do not waver in our understanding of the truth of God's Word. It is also vital to realize that we may have to make adjustments on how we "package" the Gospel message. The church must move quickly from the defensive mode to an offensive one in order to win the war of souls. Our soldiers need to be retrained. **Keep the truth and stand in balance.**

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2017\The Amour of God\Ephesians 6\_15.wpd

Date: Mar 5/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: It's Time for the Reign of God - E

## THE ARMOUR OF GOD - PART III

### FEET EQUIPPED FOR BATTLE

**Text: Ephesians 6:15**

**Key Word: Feet**

**Key Thought: We must Be Both Stable and Also Mobile as a Church**

*"having your feet shod with the equipment of the gospel of peace."*

*Ephesians 6:15 RSV*

*"And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm footed stability, the promptness and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace."*

*Ephesians 6:15 AMP*

**There Are at Least 2 Areas Therefore, Which We must Address.**

#### **I. FIRMNESS, CONFIDENCE, ASSURANCE**

*Ephesians 6:13*

##### **A. Doctrinally**

**B. Alertness or Watchfulness** - *II Corinthians 16:13; Matthew 26:41; I Corinthians 10:12; Ephesians 4:14; II Corinthians 2:11*

#### **II. Mobility**