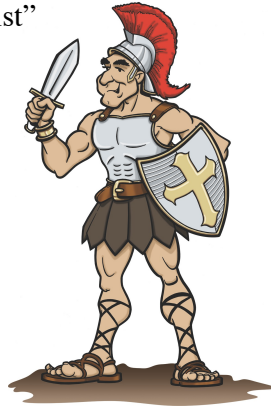


## The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armour 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. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” - Ephesians 6:10-18

### Our Focus for 2021

1. Our theme for this year is “Standing Strong in Christ”
2. We are learning to persevere and even thrive amidst doubts and trials in life.
3. We are being reminded to Stand Strong against the enemy of our faith.



### A Reminder About the Battle

1. It is of utmost importance. (“Finally...”)
2. You win this battle when you stand your ground.
3. You are only effective when you wear all of the armour.

### The Armour of God

- It is seven distinct pieces (when you include prayer).
- You wear three pieces of this armour constantly.

### The Belt of Truth (Character)

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...” - Ephesians 6:14

- It is your integrity; or living without hypocrisy.

### The Breastplate of Righteousness (Commitment)

“...with the breastplate of righteousness in place...” - Ephesians 6:14

- Its purpose is to guard your heart.  
“Above all else, **guard your heart**, for it is the wellspring of life.” - Proverbs 4:23
- It is the combination of faith and love in action!

### Feet Fitted With the Readiness ... (Confidence)

“...and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” - Ephesians 6:15



These shoes are worn constantly.

1. They provide protection.
  - traction
  - foundation

2. They indicate a readiness.

“This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, **your sandals on your feet** and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.” - Exodus 12:11

3. They suggest ownership.

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” - Exodus 3:5

“(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)” - Ruth 4:7

4. They indicate wealth.

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’” - Luke 15:22

### ... That Comes from the Gospel of Peace

1. You have peace with God.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ...” - Romans 5:1

“...and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace through His blood**, shed on the cross.” - Colossians 1:20

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...” - Ephesians 2:14

2. You have the peace of God.

“And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, **will guard your hearts** and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:7

### Remember . . .

1. You have peace *with* God because of your surrender.

2. You have the peace *of* God because of the Holy Spirit.

“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the **Spirit** is life and **peace**...” - Romans 8:6

### Are you exhibiting His peace?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:6,7

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