

Ready

“The Gospel of Peace Shoes”

Ephesians 6:10-20 – January 18, 2026

New Year’s Sermon Series

READY		
<i>Ready for Anything with the Armor of God</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Jan 4	The Belt of Truth	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 11	The Breastplate of Righteousness	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 18	The Gospel of Peace Shoes	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 25	The Shield of Faith	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 1	The Helmet of Salvation	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 8	The Sword of the Spirit	Ephesians 6:10-20

Recap

- We are living in the middle of a spiritual battle that is waging all around us in the unseen spiritual realms (Ephesians 6:12). Satan has a battle plan and schemes that he is using to try to steal, kill, and destroy you (John 10:10). Are you aware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11)?

Satan’s Scheme	Scriptures	Armor That Counters That Scheme
Lies & Deception	John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinth 11:14	Belt of Truth
Accusation	Revelation 12:10; Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1	Breastplate of Righteousness
Division	Ephesians 4:26-29; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11	Gospel of Peace Shoes
Doubts & Discouragement	Genesis 3:1-5; John 10:10; 2 Corinth 11:3	Shield of Faith
Fear	1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18	Helmet of Salvation
Temptations	Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11	Sword of the Spirit

- In order to stand against the devil’s schemes, you must put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).
- Let’s memorize Ephesians 6:10-20 together (two verses per week)

Satan’s Tactic of Division

- Satan LOVES to cause division among friends, family members, church members, fellow believers, and fellow citizens!!!
- James 4:1** – *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?*
- 1 Peter 5:8** – *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:33** – *God is not a God of confusion but of peace.*
- Proverbs 6:16,19** – *There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to Him... (#7)... one who sows discord among brothers.*

- Letter from senior demon to junior demon: “I think I warned you before that if your client can’t be kept out of the Church, he ought at least to be violently attached to some party within it. The real fun is working up hatred between those who say ‘mass’ and those who say ‘holy communion.’” (C.S. Lewis’ *Screwtape Letters*).
- Satan is having a hey-day in our nation right now!!! He loves our division!

The Function of a Roman Soldier’s Shoes

- A Roman soldier’s shoes were called caligae (hobnailed sandals).
- The iron hobnails on the bottom of the sandals provided the soldier with excellent grip on the ground allowing him to stand firm in battle and to march well. The hobnails also allowed soldiers to stomp fallen enemies, preventing them from getting up.
- The thick leather soles resisted wear allowing soldiers to carry out their mission over long distances and harsh conditions. The open design allowed for air circulation and water drainage thus preventing fungal infections, skin irritation and blisters.
- The rhythmic clanking of thousands of Roman soldier hobnailed sandals created a terrifying sound that would intimidate their opponents when a Roman legion marched.

How to Put on the Gospel of Peace Shoes

1. Receive the Gospel yourself.

- To put on the Gospel of Peace Shoes you must receive the Gospel.
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-3** – *I remind you of the Gospel by which you are being saved: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers.*
- Romans 10:9** – *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Application #1 – Receive the Gospel by faith.

Lord Jesus, I repent of my sin, and I receive the Gospel. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that You rose from the dead. I receive You, Jesus, into my life and choose to follow You.

- Now, go public with your faith decision through public water baptism. Our next baptism service is Sunday, March 1, at 12:45pm. More info and sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms

2. Stand firm against the devil’s schemes.

- Four times we are told in Ephesians 6 to “stand” or “stand firm” (vv.11,13,13,14). That’s what the Gospel of Peace Shoes are for!! Digging our hobnails into the ground and standing firm!!! Plant your spiked feet in the ground and stand firm!!

- Hold your ground against temptations and the devil's schemes by standing on God's Word.
- Jesus modeled this for us in his temptations by the devil in the wilderness (Matthew 4) by thrice saying, "It is written" (vv.4,7,10).
- Matthew 7:24 tells us that we stand firm by building our house upon the Rock of Jesus' words.
- Application #2 – With God's help and power, I'm going to...
 - Stand my ground against temptations by reading God's Word, knowing God's Word, memorizing God's Word, bringing God's Word to mind, and declaring God's Word out loud.
 - Dig my hobnail spikes into the ground against temptations by setting boundaries and guards in my life, removing myself from temptations, and fleeing from temptations.
 - Lock arms with other believing friends in order to stand our ground together against temptations and the devil's schemes.
 - Not go "barefoot" into battle but rather rely on the Lord and trust in the Lord through prayer and surrender.

3. Share the Gospel with other people.

- The Bible says that people who share their faith have "beautiful feet."
- **Isaiah 52:7** – *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*
- Note what Ephesians 6:15 says that we actually put on is "readiness"
- **1 Peter 3:15** (NIV) – *In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared (NLT: "ready") to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*
- Application #3 – Seven ways to be ready to share the Gospel:
 - Prepare and practice your one-minute testimony (before, how, after)
 - Memorize the Romans Road (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9)
 - Develop and pray for a Top Ten List.
 - Invite someone to church.
 - Invite someone to Alpha. WhatsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation
 - Invite someone to the Shroud of Turin Exhibit at Grace Fellowship between March 29 thru April 5. And volunteer to help us host this amazing piece of biblical archaeology.
 - Sign up for a cross-cultural mission trip on the porch today.

4. Bring peace where there is division.

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** – *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

- We put on the Gospel of Peace shoes by maintaining unity in our relationships.
- Application #4 – Eight ways to maintain unity and peace in all of your relationships:
 - Want it! Actually desire and want peace and unity. As far as it depends upon you, seek to be at peace with all people (Romans 12:18).
 - Humble yourself and give up the need or insistence to have to be right all of the time (Philippians 2:1-11).
 - Listen twice as much as you talk (James 1:19).
 - Sincerely apologize and ask for forgiveness whenever you realize that you have hurt someone else (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) when someone else hurts you. Tell them how they have hurt you (Matthew 18:15). Forgive them (Ephesians 4:32).
 - Quit talking and disputing about politics! (1 Timothy 6:3-5)
 - Pray for peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16; Psalm 122:6).
 - Seek to build unity through praying together and building relationships together across racial, denominational, social, and economic lines (Ephesians 2:11-22).
- Come to our 6th Annual MLK Prayer Service tomorrow (Monday, January 19) at 4:00-6:00pm in the Worship Center Lobby to pray for and celebrate peace, unity, and racial healing.

My Application Today – With God's help and power, I am going to...

- Memorize Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV) by memorizing two verses per week during this series. [On January 25, we will recite vv.10-16 together. That's 3 new verses!]
- Put on the whole armor of God daily through prayer.

Father, thank You for making Your armor – the very armor that You Yourself wear – available to me through the merits of Jesus Christ. Right now, by faith, I put on Your armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace shoes, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is Your Word. Protect me from the evil one and use me to advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name.

- Put on the Gospel of Peace Shoes by...
 - Receiving the Gospel myself
 - Standing firm against temptations and the devil's schemes
 - Sharing the Gospel with others
 - Bringing peace where there is division.