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오늘의 말씀

"The Gospel of Peace and the Shield of Faith"

[Ephesians 6:15~16]

and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

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Introduction ~ Every Battle Requires Armor.

Dear brothers and sisters, what is the first thing to collapse in a battle? Is it the sword? Is it the armor? No. It is the feet. If a soldier loses his footing, all of his weapons become useless. And when the heart collapses, every strategy collapses as well. That is why Paul, after speaking about the “belt of truth” and the “breastplate of righteousness,” goes on to talk about shoes and a shield.

Exposition of the Text

First, Paul tells us to put on the shoes prepared by the gospel of peace.

Why shoes?

[Ephesians 6:15] and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Roman soldiers wore military sandals known as caligae. These sandals had metal studs embedded in the soles. Why? So that they would not slip.

The spiritual meaning of these shoes is very clear. Satan would rather shake us than knock us down. Through anxiety, worry, and fear of the future, Satan seeks to unsettle us.

Paul says these are shoes prepared by “the gospel of peace.” What is this peace? In Greek, the word is [εἰρήνη (eirēnē)]. In Hebrew, it is the familiar word [שָׁלוֹם (sha-lom)]. These words mean far more than emotional calmness. This peace does not originate from favorable circumstances or external conditions. It is a peace that rises from within. And what is found within? It comes from a restored relationship with God. Paul expresses it this way:

[Romans 5:1] “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The gospel is therefore the declaration that “I have been reconciled to God.” That is why Satan attacks our peace. Why?

Because when a person loses peace, he begins to collapse from within. Consider Elijah. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah won a tremendous victory in the battle of prayer on Mount Carmel against 850 false prophets. But immediately afterward, in chapter 19, Jezebel threatened to kill him. What surprises us is how suddenly Elijah was shaken by her words. An overwhelming despair came upon him, and he ran away, feeling as though everything was lost. The circumstances had not changed dramatically. What had collapsed was his inner peace. This shows us how devastating the loss of peace can be.

After the shoes prepared by the gospel of peace, Paul speaks of the shield of faith. Above all, he says that we must take this shield of faith.

[Ephesians 6:16] “Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

The word for shield here is [θυρεός(thyreos)]. This was not a small shield. It was a large shield, almost the size of a door, capable of covering the entire body.

Why do we need this shield? Because Satan shoots fiery darts. The phrase used here is [πεπυρωμένα βέλη(pepyrōmena belē)], which literally means “burning arrows.” During the Roman era, soldiers wrapped cloth soaked in oil around the tips of arrows and then set them on fire before shooting them. Their enemies might block the arrows with shields, but the burning arrows would set the shields on fire and render them useless. It was a terrifying weapon.

There is profound spiritual significance in Paul’s comparison of Satan’s attacks to fiery darts. Satan shoots fiery darts at believers. These darts take the form of fear, condemnation, doubt, anger, discouragement, and despair. They suddenly come flying at us. We attempt to block them, but Satan seeks to ignite our defenses and leave us vulnerable and exposed.

The only thing that can stop these fiery darts is “the shield of faith.” What is faith? Many people think faith is simply positive thinking. But the Bible says otherwise. Faith [πίστις (pistis)] means “trust, dependence, and confidence.” It is the declaration, “God has spoken, and therefore I will hold on to His Word.” Positive thinking alone cannot change our circumstances. We must stand in trust and confidence in the Word of God.

Why does the shield of faith extinguish the fiery darts? Because faith enables us to see God as greater than the fiery darts Satan sends against us. A giant Goliath stood before David. Yet David behaved like a young boy who could not even see the giant’s great-ness. The entire army of Israel was terrified and hiding, but David walked out to face Goliath carrying only a shepherd’s staff and a sling. Goliath was astonished. “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? Did you come out here to herd dogs? Is there no warrior in Israel worthy to fight me?” But David possessed a shield of faith that saw God as greater than Goliath.

[I Samuel 17:45~47] Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (46) "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. (47) "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."

Likewise, Joshua and Caleb possessed the shield of faith. Unlike the other spies who were intimidated by the giants of Canaan, they saw the covenant of God as greater than the Anakim. Therefore they boldly declared:

[Numbers 13:30] Then Caleb quieted the people before

Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

[Numbers 14:6-9] But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; (7) and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. (8) "If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' (9) "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has de-parted from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

The common characteristic of all the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11—the chapter we of-ten call the “Hall of Faith”—is that they held firmly to God’s promises rather than being controlled by the circumstances around them. We desire to live in the same way.

Dear brothers and sisters, before Satan brings a problem into your life, he first brings fear. This is the reality of spiritual warfare.

Satan first causes us to doubt God’s promises. Then he discourages us. Finally, he leads us to give up and surrender. That is why the shield is so important.

At this point, we are reminded again of the message we shared two weeks ago in the second sermon of this series: Condition vs. Position. The reason we have faith is not because faith itself is powerful. It is because the object of our faith is Christ.

Therefore, as Jesus taught, even faith as small as a mustard seed can bring victory when it is placed in a great Savior. This is the secret of our victory.

Conclusion

We must stand firmly, wearing the shoes of the gospel of peace.

We must also take up the shield of faith and extinguish the fiery darts of Satan. Therefore, victory in spiritual warfare does not depend on how strong we are. It depends on how firmly we stand upon the gospel.

With that in mind, we must ask ourselves:

- ~ What is stealing my peace right now?
- ~ Am I looking at my circumstances, or am I looking at God's promises?
- ~ Am I holding the shield of faith in my hands?

Today's Prayer Points

- ~ Lord, help me stand firmly upon the gospel of peace and remain unshaken.
- ~ Help me extinguish the fiery darts of fear that Satan sends against me, holding firmly the shield of faith.
- ~ Help me see God and His promises as greater than every enemy and every difficult circumstance before me.