STAND FIRM 2: ON YOUR FEET!

November 18, 2012 Ephesians 6:15 by Bob Branch Standing In Your Inheritance in Christ, Part 34

MAIN IDEA: There's a spiritual war going on and we're in it, but we are not without protective armor and the means to advance the fight.

"with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." **Ephesians 6:15**

What is the armor? caliga

Boots gave <u>traction</u>, <u>prevented sliding</u>, and were <u>good for maneuvering</u>.

"Readiness" hetoimasia, firm footing, agility, spiritual athleticism

The Gospel of peace...

Peace with God (Objective peace)

...since we have been justified through faith, we have <u>peace</u> <u>with God</u> through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Romans 5:1-2 (Acts 10:36; 2 Cor. 5:20-21)

> Peace of God. (Subjective peace)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. **John 14:27** (Phil. 4:5-9; Gal. 5:22)

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. **Isaiah 26:3** ESV

> Peace with others. (Relational peace)

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. **Eph. 4:3** NLT (Eph. 2:14-17; 2 Cor. 13:11; Matthew 5:9)

Why put on the readiness boots? (Enemy Tactics)

 \blacktriangleright Expect attacks on your peace with God. (Galatians 3:1-5; 5:1, 7-9)

- Expect attacks on your internal sense of peace. (Phil. 4:11-13)
- Expect attacks on/through your relationships. (Eph. 4:26-27; 6:12)
- Expect attacks on any forward movement of the Gospel. (1 Cor. 16:9)

What does this readiness do?

➤ It prepares us to <u>STAND FIRM</u> by preventing us from sliding & slipping.

Stand firm... Ephesians 6:11, 13-14

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?... For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:31, 38-39**

➤ It prepares you by giving you traction to MOVE FORWARD in God's purposes.

...a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. **1 Corinthians 16:9** ESV (Mt. 6:10; Acts 12:24; 19:20)

> It prepares you to **SHARE CHRIST'S LIFE** with others.

Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone. **Mark 16:15** NCV (Eph. 6:19-20; Phil.1:14)

How to exercise your spiritual readiness & athleticism?

INTERNALLY: You must keep drinking of it.

EXTERNALLY: Look for opportunities to share...

Where is your peace today?