

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 8 – Tuesday

Eph. 6:14-15 – Footnotes 14⁴, 15¹, 15²

Then we need the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness is in the blood of Christ. When we were saved, we were clothed with righteousness; we were clothed with Christ as our righteousness. As we go through each item of the armour, we need to realize that each item is Christ. It is not a thing, but it is our experience of Christ. Whenever you want to fight the spiritual warfare (that may sound like an intimidating phrase), whenever you consider to preach the gospel, that is part of the warfare. Whenever you consider to visit a brother or sister who hasn't been with us for some time, that recovering is part of the spiritual warfare. Whenever you consider to give a little testimony in the meeting, that is part of the spiritual warfare because that is building the church. Whenever you even consider to do any of these activities, the enemy will come to your conscience to accuse you: "Are you going to speak today? You? Didn't you do this? Didn't you say that? Didn't you have an attitude toward your spouse, toward your mother, toward your boss, or toward your coworker?" Right away it is possible that if we don't have the breastplate of righteousness we are defeated in our chair. What does this mean? This means that to fight the spiritual warfare we need to confess our sins. It is not that we need to be perfect; but we do need to be righteous. When we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). That is how we apply the breastplate of righteousness. We confess our sins, we claim the blood, and gain the righteousness that is in the blood. So when we come to a prayer meeting, in a sense it does not matter what the day was. As long as we turn and confess, we are sitting there with the breastplate of righteousness. Then we are equipped to fight the battle.

Verse 15 says, "And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace." Now we come to the shoes which are related to the gospel of peace. Strictly speaking, this does not mean that we need to preach the gospel. It means that on the cross the Lord Jesus accomplished peace in two ways. According to Romans 5:1 He made peace between us and God, but in Ephesians 2 He also made peace between the Jews and the Gentiles, between men. So He made peace vertically and He made peace horizontally. That becomes the foundation for us to stand on and that is what we wear as our shoes. Over and over in this section, it does not say *fight*, it says *stand*. Our fighting in the Christian life is just to stand. After all the enemy's attacks, the church will be standing there and the battle is won. We need to stand, but to stand we cannot have sneakers on; we cannot have flip flops on. I think that many of us have spiritual flip flops. We need a firm foundation of the gospel of peace. What does that mean? That means that if you come to preach the gospel, shepherd, or recover saints, share in the meeting, pray in the prayer meeting, but there was discord between you and your spouse, you are defeated already. If there is no peace at home, if there is no peace at work as far as it depends on you, if there is no peace between you and God, and then you come to pray, the enemy will say that that is a joke. You have no foundation. We must have the peace with God and the peace with man. Then we are equipped for the fight.