

Title: This Is The Power of Peace

Sermon Title: Stand: Stand Ready for Battle - Dr. Darin Wood

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It's been said that *an army moves on good feet*, and there's truth in that. A soldier's ability to move steadily and securely is essential in any battle. In the Roman army, soldiers wore sandals fitted with hard nails, a kind of cleat that gave them a solid footing in combat. That detail matters because in Ephesians 6, when Paul describes the armor of God, he gives particular attention to our feet. Four times before this verse, he tells us to *stand*. In the verses that follow, he says *withstand*. If we're going to do either, we had better have something strong underneath us.

Paul's parallel for this spiritual footing is *"the readiness given by the gospel of peace."* This is not just a poetic line. It's a powerful truth. The peace we have as believers was bought at the highest price. It was purchased by Jesus Christ. Out of the chaos of our broken existence and under the constant attack of the enemy, Jesus has given us something the world cannot: peace.

And not just any peace. A rooted, unshakable, blood-bought peace that allows us to stand when everything around us is shaking.

Standing in the Chaos

No matter how wild or weird the world gets, that peace doesn't shift. It anchors us. When anger flares, when violence rises, when bitterness seeps in, we can still stand. Even in the middle of pandemonium, we stand firm. Not because we're strong, but because the peace of Christ is. That peace is our foundation.

That is the good news. That's what Paul is pointing to, and perhaps why his words echo *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.'"*

This messenger's feet are beautiful because of the urgency and joy with which they carry the message. He doesn't walk, he proclaims. He celebrates peace, salvation, and God's rightful rule. And that's where Paul tells us to begin: with our feet ready. Ready with the gospel. Ready with peace. Ready to move.

Gospel Shoes and Gator Boots

As I was getting dressed today, I thought about my shoes. I brought what my wife calls my "dress Nikes," but they didn't quite seem right for the message. So I reached for something else, something special.

From my bag, I pulled out a pair of boots. Not just any boots. These are my special occasion boots. They were given to me in 2017, after I beat cancer. The people who gave them to me said, "A man who has beaten cancer has a lot of steps left to take. You need good boots to take them in."

And they were right.

These boots are Casey Gator skin boots. I would have never bought them myself. God only knows how many gators had to give their lives to make them. But they fit my feet, and they remind me of something bigger every time I put them on.

They remind me of the people who gave them to me. They remind me of the God who healed me. And they remind me that I have a story to tell, and it won't wait.

When I stand in these boots, I feel a little taller, not because of the heel, but because of the purpose they represent. These boots call me to proclaim. To speak up. To carry peace. They stir up urgency in my soul.

That's exactly what Paul is getting at. When he says to put on the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, he's not talking about standing still. He's talking about being prepared to move with purpose, to announce something with confidence, to carry peace to places that desperately need it.

Peace is a Person

Here's the truth. If you are in Christ, maybe you don't have a pair of Casey boots, but you've got better shoes than that. You're standing on something eternal. You're standing on the peace of Christ.

And this peace isn't a vague emotion or a fleeting feeling. It's not just the absence of conflict. It's not something we achieve through effort or maintain by luck. *Peace is a person*. His name is Jesus. He came for you. He came for me. And He brought peace with Him.

So we stand. We proclaim. We don't hide it. We don't keep it to ourselves. Not because it's easy, but because it's necessary.

We live in a world that doesn't understand peace. In many ways, it's a foreign concept. But those of us who are in Christ know better. We've experienced it. We've been rooted in it. And now we're called to share it.

Ready Feet, Urgent Message

So I'll tuck in my pants legs and lace up my boots. Not because it looks sharp, but because I want everyone to see what I'm standing on. I want it to be clear. I'm standing on peace. I'm standing on the gospel. And I'm ready to move, to go wherever that good news needs to be heard.

Let this be your reminder, too. The readiness that comes from the gospel of peace isn't just about stability. It's about urgency. It's about proclaiming a message that can't wait.

Because someone out there is desperate for peace. And we've been given the only kind that lasts.