

IN PEACE AND FAITH



Eph 6:15-16, ESV – ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of May 19, 2019

Eph 6:15 – 16

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that Jesus is our source of peace. Why is this understanding critical for our relationship with God?
- 2 Why is peace with people so important when engaging in spiritual warfare?
- 3 Likewise, we were reminded to have faith in the promises and power of God. How does faith equip us to deflect the "darts" of doubt and deception?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 *Is 52:7, ESV – 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."*

John 14:27, ESV – ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Phil 4:4-7, ESV – ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Col 4:5-6, ESV – ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- a Looking at the passages above and your sermon notes, how would you describe peace?

b Ephesians 6:15 talks about “readiness.” What exactly are Christians to be ready for?

c Have you noticed at which times in your life you are most likely to question God’s goodness? Why do these times leave you vulnerable to doubt?

d How much does your faith depend on your feelings? When you notice your faith coming and going with your mood, what steps can you take to ground yourself more firmly in the gospel of peace?

e Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Spiritual warfare is the solution to human warfare?” Explain.

2 **Gen 15:1, ESV** – *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”*

2 Sam 22:31, ESV – ³¹ *This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.*

1 John 5:4-5, ESV – ⁴ *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Heb 11:1-3, ESV – *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

f Looking at the passages above and your sermon notes, how would you describe faith?

g The shield of faith is our first line of defense and allows us to walk into battle unharmed. Which kind of faith does the shield most represent – the faith that saves us or the faith that applies God’s Word to specific situations daily? Explain.

h The flaming darts of Satan include doubt, deception, and evil thoughts. Think of a flaming dart that has pierced your life in the past. Which of God's promises could have spared you from the wound you received? Explain.

i Why is it hard to trust and believe God's promises? In what ways do we try to place conditions on them?

TAKING IT HOME

In what ways do you need to be ready with the gospel of peace in your life? What are some specific situations to which you need to take up your shield of faith today? Share what God is teaching you with an accountability partner and pray together.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 18:30
Romans 5:1
Romans 14:19
Hebrews 11
Hebrews 12:14