

Spiritual Warfare Lesson Four

The Gospel of Peace

Ephesians 6:15

and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

AMPLIFIED: And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

I The “gospel” is most commonly referred to as “the” gospel.

It is also called “the gospel of the kingdom”, “the gospel of God”, “the gospel of Christ”, “Christ’s gospel”, “the gospel of His Son”, and “the gospel of the glory of Christ”. Paul also referred to it as “my gospel” and “our gospel”.

II There are only two other expressions used to describe the gospel in the New Testament, and they are “the gospel of the grace of God” and “the gospel of peace”.

A The Gospel of the Grace of God

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

B The Gospel of Peace

Romans 10:15

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Ephesians 6:15

And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

III Paul used grace and peace together as a greeting or farewell fourteen times in his letters.

A Paul saw the gospel he preached as the gospel of God's grace and peace which is the good news of Jesus Christ.

- 1 *The gospel of God's grace is the good news that God has poured out abundantly His favor to those who do not deserve it through His Son.*
- 2 *The gospel of peace is the good news that God has reconciled the world to Himself through Jesus.*

Grace to you and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:2

IV The Gospel of Peace is the good news about peace between God and man through Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (the ministry of peace), ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- **Reconcile: to restore to friendship or harmony¹**

- **katallagē (kat-al-lag-ay')**

Exchange (figuratively adjustment), that is, restoration to (the divine) favor: - atonement, reconciliation (-ing).

A God has reconciled us to Himself.

When we reconcile with a friend, we both agree to forget our differences and be friends again.

*We make peace with **each other**.*

*Our relationship cannot be restored unless **both persons** participate.*

¹ Webster's
C.D. Hildebrand

- 1 HOWEVER...What God did is so much more than this. He reconciled us THROUGH HIS SON. Our peace with God is not based on us making peace with God. He made peace with us. It is based on God extending His unmerited favor to undeserving mankind through the death of His Son and making peace with us. We receive this peace by faith.
- 2 *This is VERY IMPORTANT because since our peace with God is not based on what we do, we NEVER have to be concerned that this peace with Him will be broken. If it were dependent on us, we would never have peace.*

*For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,
²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him,
 whether things on earth or things in heaven,
 having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

²¹ *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— .*

Colossians 1:19-22

Reconciliation means God is no longer holding our sins against us...none of them. We are forever forgiven. In God's eyes we are holy, blameless, and above reproach. For this reason, we have peace with God. HE DID IT THROUGH JESUS. Our covenant with God is not based on us, but on Jesus.

THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS!

It is the gospel we preach.

V Our gospel, the one that we are to put on our feet in readiness to preach, is THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

A We are to be prepared/ready to declare it.

- 1 This requires that we know what the Gospel of Peace is and then preach it.

Romans 10:15

How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" ¹⁶However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

- a Isaiah says this because the report is so good it is nearly unbelievable.
- b Notice it is good news about good things.

*Carrying signs condemning people for sins
and proclaiming that they are going to hell
IS NOT GOOD NEWS.*

It is BAD NEWS.

*The good news is that God IS NOT HOLDING MEN'S SINS
AGAINST THEM!!*

This bears repeating:

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (the ministry of peace with God),
¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,*

not imputing their trespasses to them,

and has committed to US the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

VI It is not about us or about how “powerfully” we proclaim the gospel. The gospel **itself** is the power of God to salvation. We simply proclaim the good news of good things. We speak it and it gets to work and spreads.

1 It's not just a message. It is God's power.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power (dunamis) of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

2 This power continues to grow and bring forth fruit.

Colossians 1:3-6

*We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in **the word of the truth of the gospel**, ⁶ which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.*

AMPLIFIED VS. 6

Which has come to you. Indeed, in the whole world [that Gospel] is **bearing fruit** and **still is growing [by its own inherent power]**, even as it has done among yourselves ever since the day you first heard and came to know and understand the grace of God in truth. [You came to know the grace or undeserved favor of God in reality, deeply and clearly and thoroughly, becoming accurately and intimately acquainted with it.]

VII The gospel is GOOD news of GOOD things.

Here are *SOME* of those good things included in the *GOSPEL OF PEACE*.

1. God LOVES me.

a. He is my friend.

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

b. He is my Father.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

c. I am His child.

1 John 3:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

2. I am an heir of God and co-heir with Jesus.²

3. I have peace with God and do not need to nor can I improve on what God has done through His gospel of peace.

a. I am forever forgiven.³

b. I am eternally redeemed.⁴

c. I am complete in Him.⁵

² **Romans 8:16-18**

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

³ **Jeremiah 31:34**

For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Hebrews 10:12

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

Romans 5:13

For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

1 John 1:7

If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁴ **Hebrews 9:12**

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

- d. I am perfected forever.⁶
- e. He will complete the work He began in me. HE will complete it!⁷
- f. I am holy, blameless, and beyond reproach.⁸
- g. I am sanctified (made holy) and continually sanctified.
- 1 **We ARE sanctified by Him.**
1 Corinthians 6:11
And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
- 2 **We ARE BEING SANCTIFIED by Him.**
1 Thessalonians 5:23
Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Hebrews 10:14**
For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
- h. I do not have to “get right with God” because I am justified (made right) by faith in Jesus.⁹
- i. Because God has declared me righteous by faith in Jesus, I cannot be condemned (sentenced adversely).¹⁰

⁵ **Colossians 2:10**

You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Complete: *plēroō*, to replete (fully or abundantly provided or filled, abundantly fed, complete, full)

⁶ **Hebrews 10:14**

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

⁷ **Philippians 1:6**

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

⁸ **Colossians 1:21-23**

Although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

⁹ **Galatians 2:16**

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

¹⁰ **Romans 8:1-2**

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

4. Because I have received the gospel of peace by faith, I am not under the law but grace. I am not bound by religious expectations known as the “spiritual disciplines”. God does not judge me for failing to meet the goals I set for myself. “The Law” is referring to ALL of the law, not just the ordinances and festivals, but also the Ten Commandments.¹¹
5. God does not turn His back on me ever. He will NEVER leave me and NOTHING can separate us.¹²
6. I do not have to work at producing the fruits of the spirit. I just walk in the Spirit and they grow. I don’t have to “exercise more self-control”.¹³
7. I am completely satisfied in Him.¹⁴
8. I already know Him.¹⁵

¹¹ John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Galatians 2:21

I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.

2 Corinthians 3:7-8

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

¹² Romans 8:38

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

¹³ Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

¹⁴ Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 4:14

“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

¹⁵ John 1:10

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know¹⁵ Him.

Jeremiah 31:34

“They will not teach again¹⁵ each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

9. I am as close to Him as anyone can be.¹⁶
 10. I don't need to work up an anointing.¹⁷
 11. God hears and answers my prayers.¹⁸
 12. I have peace about the future can trust Him with it.¹⁹
 13. In Him I have rest.²⁰
 14. He gives me peace in life.²¹
 15. I have peace in ministry. I am who I am by the grace of God. He is the one who calls me and He is the one who gives me strength to minister.²²

1 John 2:13

I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

¹⁶ Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 John 4:13-15

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁷ 1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.

1 John 2:20

But you have an anointing from the Holy One.

¹⁸ 1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil." (WE ARE RIGHTEOUS.)

John 14:13

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

¹⁹ Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Luke 12:32

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

²⁰ Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

²¹ John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

²² 1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

C.D. Hildebrand

16. We also have the privilege to be guided by His peace.

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule (serve as an umpire) in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

a. Don't do ANYTHING outside of the peace of God inside you.

17. Peace is our irrevocable covenant from God.

Isaiah 54:10-11

*"For this is like the days of Noah to Me,
When I swore that the waters of Noah
Would not flood the earth again;
So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
Nor will I rebuke you.*

¹⁰*"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake,
But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you,
And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,"
Says the LORD who has compassion on you.*