



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Put on the Sandals: "Gospel of Peace"	SPEAKER	Ps Don Wong
THEME	Hebrews Series Revisited	DATE	27 & 28 Apr 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as He was baptised at the Jordan River. Jesus was filled, led and empowered by the Spirit of God to overcome temptations in the wilderness before He returned to Galilee to start His ministry, where signs and wonders followed Him. Likewise, in Acts, signs and wonders followed Jesus' disciples after they received the Holy Spirit and people could see their extraordinary powers because of the Spirit of God in them. All Christians are called to be in the world but not of the world. How can we live in this fallen world of temptations, yet experience His peace?

GOSPEL OF PEACE

1. The Spirit of God

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon the children of God (Isa 61:1) and the only way to live is by the Spirit of God. It is important for every believer to be born again (John 3:3) and be baptised in the Holy Spirit, so that the believer will be filled, led and empowered by the Spirit to operate the gifts of the Spirit and bear fruits of the Spirit. Wherever God places us, be the best so that others can see Christ in us and we may be called oaks of righteousness to display His splendour (Isa 61:3).

2. The Peace of God

Shalom refers to welfare, state of health, uncontrolled, undisturbed prosperity and peace. In John 14:26-27 and John 16:33, Jesus promised His peace for us to live in this troubled world.

Ps Don shared his experience of going through chemotherapy treatment, a 16-hour long operation to remove some of his organs and the immense postoperative pain. He praised God for His peace and the prayers of the Saints for sustaining him through this pancreatic cancer journey, as he held onto Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

We live in a troubled world and often yearn to engage in activities to find peace. However, peace is not a programme or event. Peace is a person and Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peace only comes when

we have Jesus Christ in the valley of the shadow of death. The peace of God will guide, protect and comfort us in times of trouble and in making decisions.

3. The Sandals of Peace

In Ephesians 6:10-17, we are called to put on the armour of God. In particular, the sandals protect our feet and guide us as we walk with God such that the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will be with us. In the past, the spikes on the sandals of the Roman soldier were for an offensive stance. In the same way, the spikes of the sandals of the gospel of peace help us to stand firm and trust that God is in full control, despite what we see or hear.

It may be easy to differentiate a 'good thing' from a 'bad thing', but how do we choose a 'right thing' over a 'good thing'? Sometimes, the 'right thing' is geared towards what suits or benefits us and we may rationalise it with the Word of God to suit our desires. Sometimes, we may do the 'right thing' but it is not a 'God thing'. There is no peace when there is no complete trust in the Lord. As we choose to walk in the Spirit of God to do 'God things', the peace of God will guide our hearts and minds (Col 3:15), as they are for the kingdom of God that is of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17), leading to hope and light in the midst of darkness. We are also called to return to the Word of God, which stands firm and lasts forever (Psa 33:9, Matt 24:35).

Ps Don shared about his ministries to bless others such as serving the elderly, home refurbishment projects to improve the living environment of people in need and the "Unlabelled" run. Although there were initially financial issues and challenges, he continued to seek the Lord and experience His peace to proceed. He obeyed the Word of God, and trusted that God would provide all the resources needed. These ministries have since flourished as the Gospel of Peace continues to grow in the community.

CONCLUSION

When we have a relationship with Jesus with our feet standing firmly in the Word of God, we will be able to offer a song of praise to worship God in the midst of a storm and experience the real Peace of God in our lives.

QUESTIONS

1. In John 14:27, God promised His peace in times of trouble. Share about a time when you experienced the peace of God in the midst of a challenging situation.

2. What are some barriers or distractions that prevent you from experiencing the peace of God? Knowing what these barriers are, what are some actions you can take to overcome them?

3. The Sandals of Peace protect and help us walk through life. How will you wear the Sandals of Peace to actively cultivate peace in our relationships and communities today?