

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

1. REVIEW

- A. OUR **BODY** IS INFLUENCED BY OUR **SOUL**
- B. OUR **SOUL** IS INFLUENCED BY OUR **SPIRIT**
- C. OUR **SPIRIT** IS INFLUENCED BY THE **WORD OF GOD**
- D. **T H E F O R E...** WHEN **TRUTH (GOD'S WORD)** FLOWS FREELY FROM OUR **SPIRIT** (BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN READ, RECEIVED, ACCEPTED, AND SUBMITTED TO), IT RELEASES **RIGHTEOUSNESS** INTO OUR **SOUL**, THEREBY **SANCTIFYING** IT... THEN OUR **SOUL** (MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS) TELLS OUR **BODY**:

- 1. You have to **WALK DIFFERENTLY**.
- 2. You have to **THINK DIFFERENTLY**.
- 3. You have to **TALK DIFFERENTLY**.
- 4. You have to **DRESS DIFFERENTLY**.
- 5. You have to **CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS DIFFERENTLY**.
- 6. You have to **SPEND YOUR TIME DIFFERENTLY**.
- 7. You have to **SPEND YOUR MONEY DIFFERENTLY**.
- 8. You have to **LIVE DIFFERENTLY... BECAUSE YOU ARE DIFFERENT!!**
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2. THE SHOES OF PEACE

Ephesians 6:15 (NASB) and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

Luke 12:22-31 (NASB) And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, **do not worry** about *your* life, *as to* what you will eat; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; **how much more valuable you are than the birds!** "And **which of you by worrying** can add a *single* hour to his life's span? "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, **why do you worry** about other matters? "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more *will He clothe* you? **You men of little faith!** "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and **do not keep worrying**. "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. "**But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.**"

A. "THE ROBIN AND THE SPARROW"

"Said the robin to the sparrow,
I would really like to know
Why these anxious human beings

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Rush about and worry so.
Said the sparrow to the robin,
Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."

Mark 9:20-24 (NASB) They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he *began* rolling around and foaming *at the mouth*. And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" And Jesus said to him, " 'If You can?' **All things are possible to him who believes.**" Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "**I do believe; help my unbelief.**"

B. SONG: "I BELIEVE, HELP THOU MY UNBELIEF"

Philippians 4:6-7 (NASB) Be **anxious** (the absence of peace) for **nothing**, but in **everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all (human) comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C. PAUL says that in addition to the **BELT OF TRUTH** and THE **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, we **MUST PUT ON THE SHOES OF PEACE**.

1. A **ROMAN SOLDIER'S SHOES** were **SANDALS** with heavy **NAILS** (HOBNAILS) through the **SOLES** to provide **TRACTION** when needed.
 - a. Similar to football, soccer, and baseball **CLEATS**.
 - b. Think of each **hobnail** as a **VERSE OF SCRIPTURE (GOD'S TRUTH)**.
2. Paul is talking about placing yourself in a **STATIONARY POSITION** in order to "**STAND FIRM**" (= **STABILITY**), SO **WHEN Satan ATTACKS** he will **NOT** be able to "**KNOCK YOU OF YOUR FEET**" because your **SHOES OF PEACE** will enable you to "**STAND FIRM**" (X3).
3. You know what it feels like when your **CIRCUMSTANCES, SITUATIONS, MARRIAGE, FRIENDS, FINANCES, CAREER**, or any number of other things have **KNOCKED** you from your **POSITION of STABILITY...**
"**KNOCKED YOU OFF YOUR FEET**".
 - a. Those **ATTACKS** can make us feel **UNSTABLE, AFRAID, ANXIOUS, ANGRY**, and **DEFEATED**.
 - b. **B U T... IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THAT WAY!**
 - 1) We **DO NOT** have to be **SHAKEN BY EVERY TRIAL**.

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- 2) Having the **PEACE OF GOD** creates a **STABILITY** that even Satan **CANNOT UNDO!**

D. The **GOAL OF Satan** and his demons in **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** is to keep you **FEELING DEFEATED**. It is to keep you on the **DEFENCE**. It is to **STEAL your JOY!** It is **TO "KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR FEET"**!

1. Satan **KNOWS HE CAN NOT TAKE AWAY YOUR SALVATION**, so he **ATTEMPTS** to make you a **MISERABLE CHRISTIAN**.

- a. He **CAN NOT KEEP YOU OUT OF HEAVEN**, so he tries to make you **EXPERIENCE HELL ON EARTH!**

John 10:9-10 (NASB) "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. "The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy**; I came that they may **have life, and have it abundantly**."

- b. **WHAT** is Satan trying to:

- 1) **STEAL**
- 2) **KILL**
- 3) **DESTROY... IN YOUR LIFE?**

Ephesians 6:15 (NASB) and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE **PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**;

2. The GREEK word for **"PREPARATION"** in this verse is **hetoimasia**, which means **readiness, promptness, and speediness**.

3. What is the **GOSPEL of PEACE?**

A. The Greek word translated **PEACE** in the Scripture is **"eirene"**.

1. **"Eirene" = completeness, wholeness, and an inner resting of the SOUL** that **DOES NOT FLUCTUATE** based on **O U T S I D E INFLUENCES**.

- a. A person who is at **PEACE** is **stable, calm, orderly, and at rest** **W I T H I N**.

2. **PEACE ("EIRENE") DOES NOT** refer to an **INNER CALM WHEN ALL AROUND YOU IS CALM**.

- a. When you are **SURROUNDED BY TRANQUILLITY, YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE CALM!**

- b. When you experience **THE PEACE OF GOD**, you are at **PEACE EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE IS ALL WRONG**.

B. **STORY OF TWO PAINTERS WHO WERE ASKED TO PAINT A PICTURE OF PEACE** (\$250,000 Prize):

1. **First PAINTER**

- a. A lake under a clear blue sky with water glistening.

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- b. Green grass.
 - c. A shepherd with sheep following him.
 - d. Large trees with birds gathered in their branches
2. **Second PAINTER**
- a. Pitch black sky with lightening zigzagging across.
 - b. Water with waves thrashing.
 - c. Trees bent and bowed by the wind.
 - d. In the lower left was a little bird sitting on a rock, singing.
 - e. One faint beam of light shone down from the dark clouds onto the bird as it sang **IN SPITE OF** the **CIRCUMSTANCES** all around it.
3. The **second painter won** the competition.
- a. The judges chose him as the **winner** because he showed the **TRUEST MANIFASTATION OF PEACE—A PEACE THAT RESONATES FROM WITHIN DESPITE WHAT'S GOING ON ALL AROUND (= NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES).**
4. **PEACE** does **NOT** refer to an inner calm when **ALL AROUND YOU IS CALM**.
- a. When you are **surrounded by tranquility, YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE CALM!**
5. When you **experience the PEACE of GOD**, you are **CALM** even when **EVERYTHING ELSE IS ALL WRONG**.
- C. The **PEACE OF GOD** does **NOT DEPEND ON OUR CIRCUMATANCES!!**
Romans 8:6 (NASB) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and **peace**,
- D. **“THE ROBIN AND THE SPARROW”**
“Said the robin to the sparrow,
I would really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so.
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4. **QUESTIONS and DISCUSSION**

SCRIPTURE

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