

Put Your Foot In It

by Pastor Marvin R. Barham

I have said many times that too often the church blames everything on the devil when sometimes it is the result of their choices or that we should consider maybe God is trying to teach us something or help us grow. But when it is obvious that the enemy is trying to come in like a flood we better be able to recognize it.

In the past couple of months we have been called to a battle against the enemies in opposition to our destinies and the hope of Victory in our lives. We must assess the situation and ask ourselves "Are we engaged?" Like it or not the enemy has snuck into our camp and as a result God is calling us to engage the enemy. Who let the enemy in is not the issue at this point. The enemy is in our camp and we must engage him in an aggressive manner.

Often when the enemy seeks to pick a fight he at some point employs psychological warfare. He comes against our emotions, hearts and minds and begins to bring fear, doubt and discouragement. He seeks to get our focus on the negative and its possibilities. He seeks to distract us from our call and Kingdom purpose without obviously getting our attention until he has already secured a foothold. As a prophetic people with the knowledge of the Word of God we must engage the spirit of discernment and recognize the enemies vices if we are to render him powerless and ineffective.

We must war with the truth "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." Greater is the risen God who sits on the throne of my life, my heart, my thoughts, and my hope than the enemy and his principalities that operate through the manipulative and deceptive devices of this fleshly world of which I have been called to have dominion and authority.

Isaiah 52:6-8 *6Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I. 7How beautiful upon the mountains are **the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!** 8Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.*

How beautiful to God are those whose paths in life do the work of the gospel in the name of Jesus and proclaim with all they are that God reigns and His Kingdom and authority and dominion is above all else. Throughout Scripture and in Hebrew culture the feet represent many things. Jesus washed His disciples feet to demonstrate the principle of humility and servanthood. Often, in Jewish culture the word "feet" was used to modestly make reference to the female anatomy such as in Deuteronomy 28:57. In some places of Scripture we find where it represented the pathway one chooses or in the authority of one being bowed down to or placing your foot on your enemies neck. In the Hebrew to place your foot on your enemy's neck meant you conquered him to the point of certainty such as when David slew Goliath and cut his head off to insure he would never rise up against him again. In **Joshua 1:3** God tells Joshua that where his feet are God shall give him dominion. "**Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.**"

In **Acts 26:14** *14And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to **kick against the pricks.***

In the Hebrew the idiom “*kicking against the pricks*” meant an active resistance against a stronger power. In Acts Paul was actively and aggressively resisting the sovereign and transcendent power of Almighty God. It is foolish to fight against the power of God but fighting against the devil is another thing. There is no **dualism** (good vs. evil; both have equal power and authority) here. The devil is powerless yet we let him kick us around when we should be the ones putting our foot into him. In **Matthew 11:12-13** it says, **12***And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.* **13***For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.* Again, we are dealing with another cultural idiom. Christ did not mean for us to take up arms and start blowing up buildings. The idiom understood in Hebrew culture here was that up until John the power of the Kingdom of God was withheld, Moses was given the letter of the law and the prophets prophesied of the coming Messiah but now after John comes the Messiah. In Him the law and prophecies will be fulfilled and the authority, power and dominion of the Kingdom of Heaven shall break forth into the earth. We find reference in **Micah 2:12-13** **12***I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.* **13***The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them.*

From the very beginning we were given dominion over Lucifer and the principalities of darkness. We find in **Genesis 3:14-15** **14***And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:* **15***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.* And in **Luke 10:19** Jesus tells us, “Behold, I give unto you **power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**”

In **Psalms 110:1**, David prophesies of the Lord placing His enemies under His feet. “*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*” In **Hebrews 10:12-14** we find the fulfillment in Christ, “**12***But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13*From henceforth expecting till his **enemies be made his footstool.** **14***For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*” Once He conquered sin, death, and hell He sat down at the right hand of the Father and any authority the enemy had was stripped from him and through Christ Jesus, those who are in Christ, were given the authority to place the enemy under their feet and bruise his head with their heel or the authority and dominion of the authority of the Kingdom of God. (**Luke 10:17-19** **17***And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. 18*And he said unto them, *I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*)

The same authority of the foot that booted Satan out of heaven; that same authority to kick the devil in the teeth, stomp on his head when he gets into our places or realms of dominion and influence; that same authority to put the devil back in his place which is under our feet; that same authority given to the seventy **is alive and well today and was given to you and I.**

Jesus told Peter in **Matthew 16:18-19** **18***And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19*And I will give unto thee the **keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.** Here is the kicker. We must be standing on the rock that cannot be moved. It is only upon this rock that the gates of hell shall not

prevail. Those who are rock solid in Jesus are given keys, access to Kingdom authority, to bind and loose both in the natural and supernatural. In the Hebrew to bind meant to forbid or deny access to or to renounce authorization. To loose meant to relinquish permission to.

People of God, for everything there is a season. The season has come to recognize who we are facing. It is to recognize the difference between trials that test our faith and when the enemy has snuck into our camp and it is time to engage the enemy. It is a time to not just have church as usual or continue in our Christian walk like it was yesterday's business. There comes a time, Saints of God, to recognize the hour and that it is time to put our foot up in the devil's business. There comes a time when God is asking us, "When will you rise up in My name and say to the enemy enough is enough?" Enough is enough in the destroying of family values; enough is enough in the degradation of our nation; enough is enough in destroying my marriage; enough is enough of placating to compromise and sin in my life; enough is enough of attacking my friends, family, brothers and sisters in Christ with sickness and disease; enough stealing from my vineyard the fruit of the King; enough is enough. Bush might have his war on terrorism but the church needs to wake up and recognize the war on the real enemy of darkness, take a stand and put their foot on the head of the devil. It is time to engage church. It is time to put your foot in it. Where do you stand?