

Where the Sole Never Dies

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One thing the children of Israel did not need, as they wandered and walked about in the wilderness for forty years, was new sandals. Moses reminded them of their strength of their soles with these words:

*I have led you forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and **your sandal has not worn out on your foot.*** (Deut. 29:5, Emphasis Mine).

One might say, as Israel wandered through the wilderness, they were in a place *where the sole never died.*

Unfortunately, the soles of our shoes will not last forty years. Eventually, the soles get so bad, they cannot be "healed."

I recently found myself with some worn out soles. Time, and the wear and tear of walking, had taken its toll. With the purchase of some shiny new dress shoes, I was very careful of where and how, I walked. I wanted to keep the shoes looking nice, free from scuffs and scrapes.

While wear and tear on the soles of our shoes might be some point of concern, a much greater concern is the wear and tear on a very different soul: The wear and tear of life's trials and temptations on our soul.

At times, it may seem as if life is walking all over us, crushing us under the soles of its heavy feet. Temptations can trip us up. Trials can stomp out our joy.

To help us through the difficult journey of life, God's word gives us instruction and warnings concerning our spiritual walk. Let's think of our spiritual walk as the steps taken by our soul. God's word helps us to be very careful of where, and how we walk. Such care can help us keep our soul free from *scuffs and scrapes*. For example, in the book Proverbs, a promise is given to those who walk according to the words of God's wisdom:

When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble (Proverbs 4:12).

David confirmed the truth of this promise when he wrote:

My steps have held fast to Your paths. My feet have not slipped (Psalms 17:5).

There are many such passages found in the Scriptures regarding our walk through this life. However, there is at least one more that should be included here:

And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15).

When we make certain to keep the soles of our feet walking in the paths of righteousness, it can make life a little easier on our soul. We will enjoy the blessings of prayer. We will enjoy fellowship with God and the saints (1 John 1:7). Most importantly, such care in our walk will lead to us a place, where the soul never dies.