

Flip Flops and Faith

“If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.” ~ Matthew 5:41

I have a new appreciation for those little rubber shoes called flip-flops since I developed a temporary foot condition which was only relieved by wearing flip-flops. Purchased during our church mission trip, they sure felt good after a long day of climbing ladders and standing on roofs. They were only ninety nine cents, so not a huge risk in the dollar department if they didn't work.

Here at the end of another summer, perhaps it might be good to reflect a little on faith with the help of those little shoe-type creations.

At the very beginning, we must realise that flip flopping has a negative meaning which we must never embrace. Believing in Jesus, then rejecting him is dangerous and life-threatening. Holding to the truths of scripture for centuries, or for the brief point of our lifetimes, then rejecting them is flip-flopping which God does not look kindly upon.

One can see it easily in the political world when politics for convenience, or for new votes, are the norm. Frank Lautenberg writes that “Flip-flopping is kind of an easy thing to identify. During a recent convention, we heard an irate Senator make an angry speech declaring that it is not what you say but, rather, what you do that counts. You flip-flop when you make promises and fail to fulfill them.”

Certainty, clarity, and consistency are the hallmarks of the growing Christian who walks with God. We wear the sandals of Jesus, and walk like he walks. It is our calling, and the greatest adventure one could ever have.

Jesus and his disciples wore sandals, which are glorified flip-flops. If we can know that the way we walk, the places we walk, and the people with whom we walk are God's people, we will be well on the way to heaven.

Moses was in retirement, tending sheep and enjoying his grandchildren when an angel of God told him to lead his people out of 500 years of slavery in Egypt. He said, "... remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." Moses did, and the rest is history.

God comes first, no matter the things we must do with family and work, and we must stand for the eternal things of faith, or we will fall for the temptations and shady values of the world. We must make the hard choices which put faith above all, and stand together with God's people to walk with strength and love.

Rose McGowan, an American actress, knows flip flops. “There was a story, “she said, “that I was in a shoe shop and that I threw a pair of flip flops at the wall, shouting, 'I can't believe how overpriced these are!' I thought, 'Gosh, if I'm gonna take a big stand on something I would hope it would be for more than flip flops!'”

We must be known for the important things of heaven. We must leave a legacy of standing up for the poor, for walking miles to tell others of Jesus, for going places known as a disciple who wears the shoes of Christ.

When God calls us, we must follow. Putting on our sandals is a sign of being ready to follow the leading of heaven. We get up from where we sit, either literally or figuratively, put on our shoes, flip flops, or other footwear, and follow him.

Paul the apostle was in prison, bound with chains. An angel appeared to him, opened the doors, and the chains fell off. Then the angel's words for him and us come forth. "And the angel said to him, 'Gird yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.'" ~ Acts 12:8

We could turn to the aura of the movies for inspiration, with a step back to the flip flop image as well, with an update. Dorothy, in the Wizard of Oz, had the ability in her ruby slippers to return home to Kansas the entire movie long, but did not know till the end. A flip flop update might be, "If I click my ruby flip flops together three times, will I end up on the beach?"

One never knows. Flip flops can take us some wonderful places, but we must put one foot in front of the other to get there. A recent sign put it this way. "These are flip-flops. They are supposed to flip and flop. So stop shuffling and pick up your feet!"

The work of the Christian is indeed a supreme adventure. We do not get there by standing still, or shuffling slowly toward heaven. We must hear the magical sound of flip flops flipping and flopping as we move forward with a spring in our step.