I am blessed with a truly wonderful wife. Fortunately for me, Terri isn’t a shopper. Not only does she not like shopping, she doesn’t like ***shoes***!! Let me rephrase that, she doesn’t like WEARING shoes. It was kind of hard on her when we lived in NC and she had to wear boots in the winter. Of course, she also got some of those toe socks and wore them with her flip flops. You may take the girl out of Texas (for a while), but you can’t take the Texas out of the girl. Yes, I know my wife is a unique and special woman!! What am I talking about? Shoes. Weare talking about GOSPEL SHOES.

Speaking of shoes … Have you heard of “the stiletto challenge?” It is an on-line sensation. This viral trend has taken over social media, with participants attempting a risky balancing pose while wearing spikey high-high heels. Inspired by Minaj’s iconic stance in her *High School* music video, the challenge has sparked widespread attention — and serious injuries.

The stunt harks back to Minaj’s 2013 music video in which she can be seen perched poolside in sky-high heels, crouching down low with one leg crossed over the other. Now, TikTokers are taking the iconic stance to new extremes, striking it while balancing on [trafficcones](https://www.tiktok.com/%40sydneyplumberchick/video/7530834108117765392), [champagne towers](https://www.tiktok.com/%40wandertheblue/video/7529630346611150110), [garden hoes](https://www.tiktok.com/%40letsgrowakron/video/7533219241244314910?q=nicki%20minaj%20challenge&t=1754071978331) and even [surfboards mid-wave](https://www.tiktok.com/%40the.a.journal/video/7531174062819740983). ( nypost.com)

The dangerous social media stunt has left influencer mom Mariana Barutkina, 32, with a broken spine and wearing a corset after her attempt at the viral Stiletto **Challenge**went horribly wrong. Just eight weeks postpartum, Mariana balanced on a baby food container in high heels on her kitchen counter mimicking a pose from Nicki Minaj’s video ( youtube ).

Now, I don’t have ***many*** pairs of shoes. I do have ***some***. Gotta have ‘em, right?? I have : Tactical boots that I used to wear for work; tennis shoes, house shoes, Sunday shoes and some old nappy shoes for yard work.

My most special pair of kicks is ***TOTALLY awesome***. That’s right, I’m talking about my GOSPEL SHOES. These are, super special, spiritual shoes. The Bible says should have our “*feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace*”

Picture the studded sandals of soldier.

 This pictures preparation, walking and standing.

What kind of preparation does he specify? He says, “*readiness for the gospel of peace*.” Readiness means the preparation of peace. **SOMETIMES** you may need Preparation H. **ALL of the TIME** you need the preparation of peace.

What is peace? Is it the absence of fear? Is it the absence of stress? Is it the absence of worry? No, it is MUCH MORE. Peace is not just **ABSENCE**. It is not just negative. It is even more POSITIVE. It is the **PRESENCE** of the Lord Jesus Christ! One aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is PEACE. Jesus says, “*MY peace I give to you*” (Jn 14.27). He gives us peace and He IS our peace. He grants us peace so we can be ready, so we can be prepared. We never know ***what’s coming***, but we know *Who is with us* and Who is *in us*. So, we can be prepared for WHATEVER comes!

**I. BE PREPARED TO STAND**

If you remember, I have talked about standing before. I said what Aaron Tippin said, that “you have to stand for something or you will fall for anything.”

 A. Stand on the right side

 B. Stand in the right place

 C. Stand in the right way

**II. BE PREPARED TO STRIVE**

 A. Strive against the world, the flesh and the devil

 B. Strive for truth, justice and the gospel

 C. Strive in faith

 1. Service

  2. Supplication

**III. Be prepared to STEP**

Be ready to walk right. Keep on stepping.

 **A. Stepping means walking right**

 1. Walk like **Jesus**

*1Jn\_2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

 2. Walk **in Him**

 Col\_2:6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

 3. Walk **in wisdom**

 *Eph\_5:15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,*

 4. Walk **in love**

*Eph\_5:2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

 5. Walk **in the Spirit**

  *Gal\_5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

 6. Walk **in newness**

Rom\_6*:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

 7. Walk **by faith**

 2Co\_5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

 **B. Stepping means going where He wants us to go**

 **C. Stepping means staying in step with Him**

What kind of shoes Katy Perry is wearing may not matter much. What brand of shoes Luca Doncic is endorsing is insignificant. What kind of shoes the hot actress sports on the red carpet is not news. It really doesn’t even matter how many pairs of flip flops Terri Lee Johnson has in her closet. It ***does*** matter if you have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

If you have NOT been saved, you ***don’t even have any*** gospel shoes. Are you saved and do you know it? Are you saved and do you show it?

If you are saved, don’t leave home without them. Make sure that you have on your GOSPEL SHOES. They are for . . .

 STANDING

 STRIVING

 STEPPING.

You may not know this man, Dustin Patrick Runnells. He is a professional wrestler. His dad was Dusty Rhodes, and his brother is current WWE star Cody Rhodes. Dustin has been wrestling for decades. He had to give up a current championship in order to have knee-replacement surgery. Dustin has a tag line on his Facebook posts—”#keepsteppin.” He says his wrestling days are not over. He plans to come back to the profession he loves. He is going to “keep on steppin’.”

**We** must keep on stepping. We must walk ***with*** Jesus, we need to walk ***for*** Jesus and we ought to walk ***like*** Jesus -- wearing our gospel shoes. We need to make sure our spiritual wrestling boots are on and laced up tightly, because we are in the march of our lives . We struggle, we wrestle — not “*against flesh and blood — but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against the evil spiritual forces in the heavens*.”