

Stand in the Evil Day pt7

The Sword of Spirit

Ephesians 6:10-18

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Introduction

If there is any one word that Characterizes our country and culture we live in...it is the word "lies".

Lies, Lies, nothing but lies, lies and more lies. Many have become so accustomed to lies, that they believe they are true.

As Tom Moore said when the Leftist speak lies, they believe they are speaking the truth.

John MacArthur once said, that if the Government told the truth, it would collapse.

It has been said in the last few years that we are living in a post Christian culture.

It could now easily be said that we live in a Post-Truth culture.

Truth is rejected and scorned. It is denied and degraded. It is considered old and out dated.

It is intolerant and mean spirited

It is hateful and hazardous.

We are told to believe things that are obviously lies.

Children are being told what is obvious about genders is not true

Adults and athletes are told that a 6 ft 220 lbs man who thinks he's a woman can compete with women

in track and field and that is supposed to be true, genuine athletics. True competition.

Truth is being attacked on every front.

A few years ago, we were concerned about how the Bible was attacked

Some attacked its historicity

Some attacked its authorship

Some attacked its miracles

Some attacked its interpretation

And this was all expected, because the Bible has been attacked from very beginning from Satan questioning God's Word in Genesis 3

Then came more attacks on truth outside the Bible. More and more graduating from our universities were saying truth is relative, it's what you believe it to be.

You have your truth, and I have my truth and to two shall never meet.

This was more of an attack of moral truth.

Right and wrong was being questioned on a greater scale.

But now the attack on truth has no limits. It doesn't matter what it is. It can be suspect.

Truth is no longer relative, it's irrelevant.

Right is no longer right

Wrong is no longer wrong

Male is no longer Male

Female is no longer Female
Marriage is no longer Marriage
We are told that the earth is flat
We are told that global warming true
We are told that the government is legitimate
We are told that Joe Biden won the election.
Lies are True
Truth are Lies.

John MacArthur stated last Sunday,
“We are now criminalizing righteous
behavior and we are legalizing crime.”

The motto of the American Culture is
“Who needs truth when you can have lies”

But I can assure you truth matters.

It matters to engineers

- make the roads, design the planes, cars
and building

It matters to the space program

the building and flying of space craft and
satellites

It matters to Justice

to prosecute the criminal and determine the
punishment

It matters to Science

from physics to Biology

It matter in math

2 + 2 = 4 no matter how many times they tell
you it is 5

John 18:37–38 (NKJV)

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

Jesus answered, “*You say **rightly** that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.*”

³⁸ Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.”

The beginning of the departure of a culture away from God and to be destined to be Judged by God is a suppression and eventual denial of the truth.

Romans 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 1:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

The Truth is critical for a society to exist. Without it, IT Dies.

So it is in the Christian life, We must have the truth to survive.

Lesson:

The Exhortation

The Explanation

The Equipment

I. The Exhortation

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God,

10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong** (**pres Imperative**) in the Lord and in the power of His might.

How to do this is explained in the next verses. We are to Put on the Whole Armor of God and that we may be able to stand.

11 Put (**Aorist Imp.**) **on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

13 Therefore **take up** (**Aorist Imp.,**) **the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I. The Exhortation

II. The Explanation

There are 3 reasons to have the whole armor on to be able to stand

1. The Age
2. The Activity
3. The Adversaries

1. The Age

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

2 Timothy 3:1–8 (NKJV)

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 Peter 3:3 (NKJV)

³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2. The Activity

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

3. The Adversaries

¹² **For** we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

I. The Exhortation

II. The Explanation

III. The Equipment

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ **Stand** therefore, **having girded** your waist with truth,

Stand

Aorist Imperative. 2nd person Plural

histémi: to make to stand, to stand

Original Word: ἵστημι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: histémi

Phonetic Spelling: (his'-tay-mee)

Definition: to make to stand, to stand

Usage: trans: (a) I make to stand, place, set up, establish, appoint; mid: I place myself, stand, (b) I set in balance, weigh; intrans: (c) I stand, stand by, stand still; met: I stand ready, stand firm, am steadfast.

Our responsibility is to **resist** and **stand firm**. When Martin Luther stood before the Diet of Worms he

was accused of heresy. After being condemned for declaring that men are saved by faith alone in Christ alone, he declared, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God.... Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.” Every believer who is faithful to God’s Word cannot do otherwise than **stand firm**.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). *Ephesians* (p. 343). Chicago: Moody Press.

14 **Stand** therefore

oun: therefore, then, (and) so

Original Word: οὖν

Part of Speech: Conjunction

Transliteration: oun

Phonetic Spelling: (oon)

Definition: therefore, then, (and) so

Usage: therefore, then.

3767 οὖν (a conjunction) – therefore, now then, accordingly so. **3767** (οὖν) occurs 526 times in the NT and is typically translated "therefore" which means, "By extension, here's how the dots connect."

The rest of the text is filled with how and with what we are to stand.

The Participles (verbal/adjectives) they speak of action and description.

The four participles which follow the imperative ‘stand’, namely, ‘*having fastened the belt of truth*’, ‘*having put on the breastplate of righteousness*’ (v. 14), ‘*having fitted your feet*’ (v. 15), and ‘*having taken up the shield of faith*’ (v. 16), spell out the actions believers need to have taken if they are to stand firm. Given the context, these participles could also be taken as having an implied imperatival force.

O’Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians* (p. 473). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Paul is telling us to stand, and to stand firm, but when doing so, make sure you have this equipment. Or another way of saying it is you can’t stand unless you have this equipment.

First piece of Armor is TRUTH

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist **with truth,**

στητε ουν περιζωσαμενοι την
οσφυν υμων **εν αληθεια**

Instrumental case with truth αληθεια

This can be summed up with 2 words

1. **Objective Truth**= contained in the Bible, doctrine
2. **Subjective Truth**= Moral truth- Truthfulness, integrity. No hypocrisy, genuine.

Now to the second piece of armor.

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

The Third Piece of Armor

15 and **having shod** your feet with the **preparation** of the gospel of peace;

The Fourth Piece of Armor

16 above all, taking the **shield** of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

16 above all,

ἐν πᾶσιν NAS ESV NIV

ἐπὶ πᾶσιν KJV

16. Above all (ἐπὶ πᾶσιν). Ambiguous. It may mean *over all*, or *in addition to all*. The latter is correct. Rev., *withal*.

Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 3, p. 409). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

The Fifth Piece of Armor == The Helmet of Salvation

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as a helmet the hope of salvation.*

In Ephesians 6

We are told to **take t** the helmet

take Aorist Middle Imperative

dechomai: to receive

Original Word: δέχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

[The personal element is emphasized with [1209](#) (déxomai) which accounts for it always being in the Greek middle voice. This stresses the high level of self-involvement (interest) involved with the "welcoming-receiving." [1209](#) (déxomai) occurs 59 times in the NT.]

Salvation comes in three phases.

First is our past which is our election and justification.

Second is our present which is our sanctification.

Third is our future which is our glorification.

So there's a past present and future perspective of our salvation.

The Sixth Piece of Armor == The Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)

17.....and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The **sword** to which Paul refers here is the *machaira*, which varied in length from six to eighteen inches. It was the common sword carried by Roman foot soldiers and was the principal weapon in hand-to-hand combat. Carried in a sheath or scabbard attached to their belts, it was always at hand and ready for use. It was the sword carried by the soldiers who came to

arrest Jesus in the Garden (Matt. 26:47), wielded by Peter when he cut off the ear of the high priest's slave (v. 51), and used by Herod's executioners to put James to death (Acts 12:2).

Of the Spirit can also be translated "by the Spirit" or as "spiritual," referring to the nature of the sword rather than its source. From the context we know that it is a spiritual weapon, to be used in our struggle against spiritual enemies.

The same Greek phrase (*tou pneumatos*) is translated "spiritual" in Ephesians 1:3 and 5:19. Although this meaning is perfectly consistent with the context of 6:10–17, the preferred rendering is as a genitive of origin, **of the Spirit**, indicating the Holy Spirit as the origin of **the sword**.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Mark 12:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ For David himself said by the Holy Spirit:

*‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’*

Acts 1:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “Men *and* brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

Acts 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

Acts 28:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,

1 Peter 1:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

As the Spirit of truth (John 14:17), the Holy Spirit is the believer's resident truth Teacher, who teaches us all things and brings God's Word to our remembrance (v. 26).

The emphasis of the present passage is on how believers are to use **the sword of the Spirit**. It is not a physical weapon designed by human minds or forged by human hands (as noted in 2 Cor. 10:3–5) but the perfect spiritual weapon of divine origin and power. Like the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation, it is always to be at hand, ready to be taken up (vv. 16a and 17a) and used when a battle begins.

Paul explicitly states that **the sword of the Spirit** is Scripture, **the word of God**.

The Scottish pastor and writer Thomas Guthrie said, "The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons,

a laboratory of infallible medicines, a mine of exhaustless wealth. It is a guidebook for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every malady, and a balm for every wound. Rob us of our Bible and our sky has lost its sun.”

From an unknown source comes this tribute to Scripture:

There are words written by kings, by emperors, by princes, by poets, by sages, by philosophers, by fishermen, by statesmen, by men learned in the wisdom of Egypt, educated in the schools of Babylon, and trained at the feet of rabbis in Jerusalem. It was written by men in exile, in the desert, in shepherd’s tents, in green pastures, and beside still waters. Among its authors we find a tax-gatherer, a herdsman, a gatherer of sycamore fruit. We find poor men, rich men, statesmen, preachers, captains, legislators, judges, and exiles. The Bible is a library full of history, genealogy, ethnology, law, ethics, prophecy, poetry, eloquence, medicine, sanitary science, political economy, and the perfect rules for personal and social life. And behind every word is the divine author, God Himself.

Of the divine authorship of Scripture John Wesley said, “The Bible must have been written by God or

good men or bad men or good angels or bad angels. But bad men and bad angels would not write it because it condemns bad men and bad angels. And good men and good angels would not deceive by lying about its authority and claiming that God wrote it. And so the Bible must have been written as it claims to have been written—by God who by His Holy Spirit inspired men to record His words using the human instrument to communicate His truth.”

Scripture teaches many truths about itself.

First, and most importantly, it claims

God as its author.

Which we have already seen.

The Bible also claims that it is

inerrant and infallible, containing no errors or mistakes. It is flawless, faultless, and without blemish.

Psalm 19:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord *is* pure,
enlightening the eyes;

Proverbs 30:5–6 (NKJV)

- ⁵ Every word of God *is* pure;
He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
⁶ Do not add to His words,
Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

The Bible claims that it is **complete**.

Deuteronomy 4:1–2 (NKJV)

4 “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. ² You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:29–32 (NKJV)

²⁹ “When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, ³⁰ take heed to

yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’³¹ You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

³² “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Revelation 22:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

The Bible claims to be **authoritative**.

Isaiah 1:2 (NKJV)

² Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth!
For the Lord has spoken:.....

Micah 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord,
And of justice and might,
To declare to Jacob his transgression
And to Israel his sin.

Deuteronomy 18:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him.

Matthew 7:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Titus 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

The Bible claims to be **effective**.

When its truths are proclaimed
and applied, things happen.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

It shall not return to Me void,

But it shall accomplish what I please,

And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

¹² For the word of God *is* living and **powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

powerful, energés: at work, active

Original Word: ἐνεργής, ἐς

Transliteration: energés

Phonetic Spelling: (en-er-gace')

Usage: effective, productive of due result, at work.

Cognate: 1756 energēs (an adjective) – properly, energized, full-of-energy (operative). [See 1754](#) (energeō).

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible also claims to be **determinative**.

What a person does with God's Word evidences his relationship to God Himself.

John 8:43 (NKJV)

⁴³ **Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.**

John 8:47 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

John 10:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

who listen to God's Word and heed it give evidence that they belong to God, and those who deny and contradict His Word give evidence that they do not belong to Him.

The Bible claims to Be Sufficient

Psalms 19:7 (NKJV)

⁷ The law of the Lord *is* **perfect**, **converting** the soul;

The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple;

perfect, τέλειος *teleios* perfect; mature (10x)

Matt 5:48; 19:21; Rom 12:2; Heb 9:11; James 1:4, 17, 25; 3:2; 1 John 4:18

תָּמִים *tā·mîm* complete, unscathed, intact; blameless, without fault, free of blemish; impeccable; honest, devout; honesty, integrity, blamelessness, completeness (5x)

Lev 22:21; Deut 32:4; Job 36:4; 37:16; Ps 19:7

כָּלִיל *kā·lîl* entirety; entire, whole, complete; whole-offering (4x)

Lam 2:15; Ezek 16:14; 27:3; 28:12

תָּם *tām* complete, perfect; healthy; well-behaved, civilized; guiltless, without sin; upright, honest (2x)

Song 5:2; 6:9

converting

to restore v. — to bring back into original existence, use, function, or position.

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue,

As **the sword of the Spirit**, the Bible offers limitless resources and blessings to the believer. First of all, it is the source of truth.

The Bible is also a source of happiness.
The Bible is the source of spiritual growth.

It is the source of power,
the source of guidance,
the source of comfort
the source of perfection

And the word of God is the source of victory over our great spiritual enemy, our most powerful weapon against Satan.

The sword of the Spirit is first of all a defensive weapon, capable of deflecting the blows of an opponent. It is the believer's supreme weapon of defense against the onslaughts of Satan. Unlike the shield, however, which gives broad and general protection, the sword can deflect an attack only if it is handled precisely and skillfully. The Christian who does not know God's Word well cannot use it well. Satan will invariably find out where we are ignorant or confused and attack us there.

Scripture is not a broadsword (*rhomphaia*) to be waved indiscriminately, but a dagger to be used with great precision.

Christians who rely simply on their experience of salvation and their feelings to get them through are vulnerable to every sort of spiritual danger. They get

into countless compromising situations and fall prey to innumerable false ideas and practices, simply because they are ignorant of the specific teachings of Scripture.

The term Paul uses here for **word** is not *logos*, which refers to general statements or messages, but is *rhēma*, which refers to individual words or particular statements.

The apostle is therefore not talking here about general knowledge of Scripture, but is emphasizing again the precision that comes by knowledge and understanding of specific truths.

That is why Paul counseled Timothy,

2 Timothy 2:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer.

Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

rightly dividing orthotomeó: to cut straight

Original Word: ὀρθοτομέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: orthotomeó

Phonetic Spelling: (or-thot-om-eh'-o)

Definition: to cut straight

Usage: I cut straight; met: I handle correctly, teach rightly.

3718 orthotoméō (from temnō, "to cut" and 3717 / orthós, "straight") – properly, cut straight (on a straight line), i.e. "rightly divide" (correctly apportion).

Hebrews 5:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is **unskilled** in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

unskilled peiros: without experience of

Original Word: ἄπειρος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: apeiros

Phonetic Spelling: (ap'-i-ros)

Definition: without experience of

Usage: inexperienced, unskillful, ignorant.

552 *ápeiros* (from 1 /A "not" and 3984 /peíra, "a test, trial") – properly, not tested or not successful when tested (tried).

[In classical Greek, 552 (*ápeiros*) refers to people lacking adequate skill (knowledge) – and hence fail due to their lack of familiarity (practice).]

One of the best examples of this is the account of Jesus and the temptation by the devil in the wilderness .

We cannot miss comparing the circumstances of Jesus with those of Adam and Eve in Eden when they were similarly tempted. Adam and Eve were in paradise; Jesus was in the vast, desolate wilderness of Judah. Adam and Eve were physically content and satisfied. They were free to eat from any of the trees of the garden, save the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; Jesus was hungry, having fasted for forty days and forty nights. Adam and Eve were together. They had each other for company and mutual support; Jesus was alone. Yet Adam and Eve rapidly succumbed to Satan's wiles, carrying the entire human race into sin, misery, destruction, and both physical and spiritual death, while Jesus stood

firm as the Savior who was to bring life and salvation to the race.

Boice, J. M. (2001). [*The Gospel of Matthew*](#) (p. 55). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Matthew 4:1–11 (NKJV)

First Temptation

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him

Mark 1:13 states he was tempted continually

Luke 4:2 states he was tempted for 40 days.

So this may only be 3 of many temptations the devil gave,

or it may be that these 3 were given over and over again just in different forms.

either way, it is not to be understood that Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days and then on day 40 the devil came and gave a few temptations.

I believe this was a constant attack, and on going deliberate attempt to discredit, derail and destroy the Son of God.

In a Literal way, all of hell would be unleashed on Jesus by the Devil to cause Him to fail.

3 he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

Satan Tempted Jesus to satisfy the desire of the flesh rather than be fully satisfied and content in God.

He attacked the character of God by implying God does not love you and have the best in mind for you.

or else His plan would not be 40 days without food.

Also

Satan attacks by **implying that the physical is more important than the spiritual**, or that obedience to God is optional when it comes to your physical needs.

If God really cared for you He would understand that you have physical needs that need to be met... so go ahead and meet that need even it isn't the will of God for you.

Wiersbe, W. W

“When we put our physical needs ahead of our spiritual needs, we sin. When we allow circumstances to dictate our actions, instead of following God’s will, we sin. Jesus could have turned the stones into bread, but He would have been exercising His powers *independently of the Father*; and He came to obey the Father (John 5:30; 6:38).”

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 18). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

*One other attack by Satan,
He implies that God is not sufficient for our
needs.*

Jesus Quotes Deuteronomy 8:3

4 But He answered and said, **“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”**

Every word is comprehensive: Jesus is not suggesting that parts of Scripture may safely be neglected, but affirming that it is profitable in its entirety. The reason is apparent in the words *that goes out through God’s mouth*. Jesus views God as

the author of Scripture, and because of this it must be heeded carefully.

Morris, L. (1992). [*The Gospel according to Matthew*](#) (p. 75). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

Deuteronomy 8:1–4 (NKJV)

8 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. ² And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴ Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶ “Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

Deuteronomy 8:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;

Deuteronomy 8:10–14 (NKJV)

¹⁰ When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

¹¹ “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, ¹² lest— *when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*; ¹³ and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Jesus had the means to make bread from the stones. He had that ability. But that was not the will of God and that was not the plan.

Obedience to the Word of God is more important than a physical fulfillment.

Example

You may need a Job to provide for your family but if the job you are offered would requires you to compromise or out right disobey God's Word.

This is were we state

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Second Temptation

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,
⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'

and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

The second temptation was even more subtle. This time Satan also used the Word of God. “So You intend to live by the Scriptures,” he implied. “Then let me quote You a verse of Scripture and see if You will obey it!” Satan took the Lord Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple, probably 500 feet above the Kidron Valley. Satan then quoted from Psalm 91:11–12 where God promised to care for His own. “If You really believe the Scriptures, then jump! Let’s see if the Father cares for You!”

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 18). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Satan attacks the Faithfulness of God to His Word.

If God is True to His Word he will take care of you no matter what you do.

But Satan, as he often does, takes scripture and isolates it and takes it out of its immediate context and the broader context of Scripture and makes God mean something He did not mean.

And then obligates God to get you out fo the mess God never promised.

The passage He quoted is from Psm 91:11-12

But the context is of one who is in the will of God and is totally devoted to the Lord.

Psalm 91:1–2 (NKJV)

- 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, “*He is my refuge and my
fortress;*
My God, in Him I will trust.”

Although Christ was totally devoted to God the Father, it was not the will of the Father for Him to be throwing himself off of buildings in some circus event so the Father could save him.

So he could say, see God is trustworthy and faithful.

In this case, Jesus was tempted to presume on God and hence you tempt God, put to the test.

Christians are Tempted to do this all the time.

1. I will marry that unbeliever and God will use me to save him or her.

It is clear from God’s Word that we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers

2. You may be tempted to join you ministry with a false religion to accomplish more

But God says not to do this. Yet we assume He will bless it and and then assume if it does succeed that that is God when in fact it could be Satan blessing it to lead more astray.

2. You misinterpret that there is Healing in the atonement here and you believe you are promise health and wealth here an now. So when you are offered a medication that could cure your sickness, you refuse and say you will trust Jesus.

You are presuming on God and it is a sin.

Psalm 19:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Keep back Your servant also from **presumptuous sins**;

Let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

presumptuous יִדְּוֹן *zā·dôn* presumptuousness, over-confidence (7x)

Deut 18:22; 1 Sam 17:28; Prov 11:2; 13:10; 21:24; Jer 49:16; Ezek 7:10

יִדְּוֹן *zēd* insolent, presumptuous (1x)

Ps 19:13

presumption (behavior) n. — audacious or arrogant behavior to which one does not have a right.

How does Jesus Respond

⁷ Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘*You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*’ ”

Deuteronomy 6:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted *Him* in Massah.

In Deuteronomy the words refer to the incident at Massah, where the Israelites were short of water and complained about Moses. That patriarch asked the grumblers, “Why do you put the Lord to the proof?” (Exod. 17:2), which is further explained in the question they had asked, “Is the Lord among us or not?” (Exod. 17:7). On that occasion God ordered Moses to strike the rock with his rod. When he did so, water came out and the people’s need was fully met. But the way the incident is reported makes it clear that a demand for the miraculous, such as the one the Israelites made, is not acceptable. The servants of God cannot demand that God should

keep on intervening with miraculous provision for their needs

Morris, L. (1992). *The Gospel according to Matthew* (p. 76). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

To jump from a height and then look to God to avert the natural consequences of such an act is just such an offense. Furthermore, it is worse than what happened at Massah, for at least the people there were in real need of water. What Satan is suggesting is that Jesus should needlessly thrust himself into danger; he would be creating a hazard where none previously existed. And for what? To compel God to save him miraculously. It is a temptation to manipulate God, to create a situation not of God's choosing in which God would be required to act as Jesus dictated. Jesus rejects the suggestion with decision. He prefers the way of quiet trust in the heavenly Father, a trust that needs no test, and a ready acceptance of his will. He refuses to demand a miracle even if from the perspective of someone on earth that might seem desirable, even compelling.

Morris, L. (1992). *The Gospel according to Matthew* (p. 76). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

Third Temptation

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

Luke 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered

to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

This was already promised to Jesus by the Father

Psalm 2:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ ...The Lord has said to Me,
‘You *are* My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You*
The nations *for* Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

And Jesus knew he would have get there by means of the Cross, Suffering and death.

He knew He would have to honor the plan and purpose of the Father.

The devil offers another way, Satan will give them all to Jesus if He will worship him, honor him.

The Devil attacks the Wisdom and Knowledge of God by suggesting there is another way to achieve the same thing. It’s easier, less pain and suffering, less problems, less hatred from family. You won’t be disliked and shunned, You will be loved by the world.

He tempts us not to be loyal, or totally devoted to God by setting someone or something in the place of our commitment to God as the only one worthy of our complete devotion.

So even when we know clearly what the will of God is and what the Word of God says, we will be tempted to find a solution to our problem or a satisfaction of a desire through the flesh, the world or the Devil... instead of following the clear words of Scripture and the will of God for our life.

Filson explains it this way: “Serve the devil and rule the world. In modern terms, be practical, realistic, ready to compromise; ‘the end justifies the means’. To help people you must get position and power.”

Morris, L. (1992). [*The Gospel according to Matthew*](#) (p. 77). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.

We end up worshipping the devil by putting our flesh and the world in the place of the supremacy of God.

How does Jesus respond?

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “**Away with you, Satan!** For it is written, ‘*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*’ ”

He simply quotes scripture that is a reminder that we are to be totally devoted to God and Him alone which means we trust Him and His Word and His Wisdom and plan for our Lives, We serve and obey Him only, not the flesh, not the World, and not the devil

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

In all three instances

1. The Character and Word of God was questioned

and

2. Another path was offered to the Flesh for satisfaction and fulfillment.

and

3. The only defense that was offered was a clear, properly interpreted and properly applied Scripture

The sword of the Spirit is also an offensive weapon, capable of inflicting blows as well as deflecting those of the enemy.

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

When **the word of God** is preached, it brings God's judgment to bear on lives as it infallibly sifts the evidence of sin and guilt.

The word of God is so powerful it transforms men from the realm of falsehood to that of truth, from the realm of darkness to that of light, and from the realm of sin and death to that of righteousness and life. It changes sadness into joy, despair into hope, stagnation into growth, childishness into maturity, and failure into success.

Every time God's Word is used to lead a person to salvation it gives witness to its power to cut a swath

through Satan's dominion of darkness and bring the light of life to a lost soul.

No believer has excuse for not knowing and understanding God's Word. Every believer has God's own Holy Spirit within Him as his own divine teacher of God's divine Word. Our only task is to submit to His instruction by studying the Word with sincerity and commitment. We cannot plead ignorance or inability, only disinterest and neglect.

1 Peter 2:1–3 (NKJV)

2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote of Martin Luther:

Luther was held in darkness by the devil, though he was a monk. He was trying to save himself by works. He was fasting, sweating, and praying; and yet he was miserable and unhappy, and in bondage. Superstitious Roman Catholic teaching held him captive. But he was delivered by the word of Scripture—"the just shall live by faith." From that moment he began to understand this

Word as he had never understood it before, and the better he understood it the more he saw the errors taught by Rome. He saw the error of her practice, and so became more intent on the reformation of the church. He proceeded to do all in terms of exposition of the Scriptures. The great doctors in the Roman church stood against him. He sometimes had to stand alone and meet them in close combat, and invariably he took his stand upon the Scripture. He maintained that the church is not above the Scriptures. The standard by which you judge even the church, he said, is the Scripture. And though he was one man, at first standing alone, he was able to fight the papal system and twelve centuries of tradition. He did so by taking up “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (*The Christian Soldier* [Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977], p. 331.)

It was William Tyndale’s vow that every English plowman and every boy that pulled a plow would one day be able to read and understand the Scriptures, and to that end he devoted his life to translating it into the English language. It is essential for the Word of God to be known, and loved, and practiced if we are to win the battle against Satan.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1986). [Ephesians](#) (pp. 367–375). Chicago: Moody Press.