

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the

LIVING IN VICTORY

CHRIST'S POWER IN YOUR LIFE

authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God,

Triumphing over temptation!

April 28, 2024 Message Notes

Matthew 4:1-11

You don't always see temptation coming, but its intention isn't to your benefit. The sooner you deal with it, the better.

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NOTES

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” Matthew 4:1

God doesn't tempt us but He allows our freedom to be tested by the tempter.

Why would God allow that to happen?

So your freedom is real. If you don't have the opportunity to disobey, your obedience doesn't count for much.

What are we overcoming?

The devil, the tempter, Satan, our spiritual adversary.

His approach is mainly made with words – introducing thoughts, ideas, doubts, suspicions and possibilities to the mind.

His intention was to split Jesus (and us) away from God.



Being tempted to sin is not the same thing as sinning, and you don't have to sin when tempted.

“After fasting forty days and forty nights he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’”

Matthew 4:2-3

The devil's most obvious tactic is to hit your vulnerable spots and then create doubt.

The sensual temptation: abuse God’s good creation for self-gratification.

Jesus’ Response: Taking in God’s life-giving Word is more vital to life than material provision.

We live in a physical world but life is spiritual.

“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

“Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the



Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
Matthew 4:5-7

Sensual: abuse God’s good creation for self-gratification.

Spectacle: manipulate God’s good Word for self-exaltation.

The devil can quote Bible – but he’ll never do it straight, without agenda, without twisting it or pulling it out of context, misleading to a doubtful, questionable conclusion.

The temptation here is to manipulate God’s good Word to make God serve you.

Jesus’ Response: Know God and His Word well enough to say, “It is also written...”

1. **Sensual** – self-gratification



2. Spectacle – super spirituality, self-exaltation

3. Successful – shortcut to success

“Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you if you bow down and worship me.’”

Matthew 4:8-9

We say, I'd never worship Satan, but don't see the places we've already bowed the knee.

This temptation asks: success at what price, what compromise?

“Away from me, Satan. It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” Matthew 4:10

Jesus came to succeed, yes. He came to give his life for the world of people God loves. But not at the price of compromising his exclusive devotion to God,

“What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?” Mark 8:36



Jesus' Response: Jesus will live first for God. Second, for his work.

“Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” Matthew 4:11

Satan will tempt you...

- Sensually to abuse God's good creation for self-gratification
- To spectacle, manipulating God's good Word to make God serve you in self-exaltation
- To succeed by compromising God's good gift of freedom in worshiping less than the Most High God

His Word will save you as you wield its wisdom.

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:10

What if I've done all three?

It is written: “If we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9



Release your sins into Jesus' nail-scarred hands.
Receive his unconditional forgiveness by faith.
Reset your soul for a new beginning.

Admit it.

Quit it.

Forget it.

Don't drag forgiven guilt around.

Keep growing in the Word.

Get to know the Word of God and, as you do, get to know the God of the Word.

