

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

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PART 9: RESISTING TEMPTATIONS

DEFEATING THE DEVIL

Lucifer managed to snare Eve with the first temptation. With Jesus it was different because the God-man resisted the three advances of the Devil. Each temptation ended once Jesus turned down the offer by quoting Scripture. Satan was not allowed a follow-up and had to move along to the next one.

Jesus defeated Satan solely by correctly employing the Word of God, leaving an example for every Christian to follow.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Putting on the whole armor of God is the most important step a Christian can take every morning before he starts his day. The spirit world is just as real as the physical world in which we exist. Lucifer and his fallen angels dwell among the human-launched satellites that orbit the earth. They seldom visit the surface of the earth, preferring to direct the demonic attacks upon humans. **Ephesians 6:10-13**

Belt of Truth

The apostle Paul modeled the armor of God to that of a Roman soldier. A soldier had a belt from which certain weapons could be attached. Paul referred to it as the belt of truth. Most Christians think they don't lie, but the reality is that we operate in deception and lies most of the time.

1. When someone asks how you're doing, the typical response is "fine," regardless how you might feel.
2. When a woman asks a friend about her new dress, the friend says it is lovely even if she thinks the pattern is horrible and a crime against humanity.
3. Imagine that you're at someone's house and the hostess asks about a dish you did not like. You tell the hostess it was delicious so as to not hurt her feelings.

James 3:14

Breastplate of Righteousness

Even after salvation, we do not possess any righteousness of our own. **Isaiah 64:6**

When we are saved and walk in obedience and truth, we are clothed with the righteousness of God. **Romans 3:20-26**

Gospel of Peace

Your feet should be shod with the gospel of peace. A Roman soldier needed good shoes to be effective in combat. This refers to when we share Christ with other people and try to lead them to salvation. **Ephesians 6:15**



The Shield of Faith

Faith is a gift from God and comes by the hearing of the Word of God. **Romans 10:17**

The shield of faith is built when a Christian fervently and devotedly studies the Bible.

Ephesians 6:16

The Helmet of Salvation

A Christian needs to remind himself every day that he is saved, born again and completely forgiven of all sins. This builds confidence in the believer. **verse 17a**

The Sword of the Spirit

The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in the arsenal of a Christian. This is the weapon Jesus used to rebuff Lucifer three times. In order to quote and live by the Word of God, you must study the Bible and understand it. **verse 17b**

A Roman soldier used all his equipment in battle. Christians have an edge in combat because of the power of prayer. When a Christian prays, he is calling for God to supernaturally intervene, simultaneously unleashing two powerful forces in the Holy Spirit and holy angels. **verse 18; Acts 12:1-11**

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

We are in a spiritual battle that is just as real as a fist fight between two men. Since it is a battle in the spirit world, we cannot use knives, clubs, or guns against the powers of darkness. We have to move in the Holy Spirit and use our spiritual weapons.

Evil spirits will build strongholds in our soul brain and convince us there are certain things we cannot do. This can be accomplished through drug and alcohol addictions, sexual perversion, etc. These strongholds must be pulled down in faith, the initial pull taking place when a person is set free from demons. **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**

The next battle is to cast down all imaginations of sin that demons project into your mind. Take every thought captive and bring them under obedience in Christ. In other words, do not entertain sinful thoughts. Identify, capture, and neutralize the thoughts that are not your own in the name of Jesus. **verse 5**

Always be ready to destroy all disobedience and operate under the dominion of the Holy Spirit. **verse 6**

APPLYING THE WORD OF GOD

You must live in holiness to apply the Word of God in your life. To become holy, we must be born again and walk in repentance. **Isaiah 55:6-7**

Our way of thinking as humans is not the way God thinks. Yield your thoughts to Him. **verses 8-9**

God illustrated how things work in the physical and spiritual worlds to the prophet Isaiah. Rain equates to food on the table for people. Once the water comes down in form of rain, it does not return to the ocean, lake or river before it has accomplished the purpose of watering the fields of grain. **verse 10**

The same holds true with the Bible. When God speaks, things will happen. When God spoke to His prophet and Isaiah recorded His words, every time the word was spoken, it activates the power of God and things happen. So when we read this prophetic word given to Isaiah 2,700 years ago, it stops being dormant and becomes just as powerful as when it was first uttered so many years ago. **verse 11**

There is great joy when the Word of God is applied. **verses 12-13**

ACTING ON THE WORD OF GOD

If you drive to a store to purchase an item and cannot find it, you can leave the store in defeat and return home. Conversely, you can find someone that works at the store and ask where the item is located. Jesus told us that we are to pursue what we want. Before you can knock on the door, you first need to find it. **Luke 11:9**

Jesus told us He is watching for people coming to His store, opening the door for them, and helping each person find what they are seeking. **verse 10**

Jesus then provided an example of an earthly father being asked for things by his son. The father will give the child what he is asking for. He will not give the child something harmful. If a human father cares for his child in such a manner, shouldn't we expect more from our Heavenly Father? **verses 11-13**

It is time for Christians to start exhibiting faith in God and stop treating Him like He is our enemy. God will only reward those who approach Him in faith. **Hebrews 11:1-6**

Many Christians have been paralyzed by the spirit of fear and put all their trust in the Devil, mistakenly believing he is stronger than God, effectively negating the Words of God. It is important to remember that God never sends a spirit of fear to His children. **2 Timothy 1:7**

You operate in faith every day even if you don't know it.

- ❖ It takes faith when you walk into a dark room and flick on the light switch.
- ❖ It takes faith when you approach a faucet because you need water to wash your hands.
- ❖ It takes faith when you sit down in a chair, believing that it will hold your weight and won't collapse.
- ❖ It takes faith to believe that when you put the key into the ignition of your car, it will start when you turn it.

In short, you operate in faith more than you know! When it comes to Almighty God, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit, many Christians are full of unbelief. The sad part is that Christians exercise more faith in the Devil and his minions than in God.

THE REMEDY

There is only one remedy for unbelief.

1. Repent
2. Seek the Lord

3. Ask and receive

When it comes to God's store, you can sit idly in the parking lot and watch as other people carry out their goods, or you can get into action and get some goodies for yourself.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?