

Be Strong in the Lord
Put on the Whole
Armor of God
Part 9

Jesus Used
The Sword of the Spirit!



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

3-09-08



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. ***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.***

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*** (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! ***But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*** (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

Welcome to today's lesson. It is part of a long study we have begun concerning how God gives all His children

**POWER
to
RESIST TEMPTATIONS!**



Here is a scripture that tells us that God has indeed given ALL His children POWER to RESIST TEMPTATIONS!

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2Timothy 1:7 KJB

The problem with many of God's children is that many of them never LEARN what this spirit of POWER & of a SOUND MIND is or means. And when TEMPTATIONS come along, they feel HELPLESS to RESIST THEM! In fact, this whole study about how to resist temptation using God's power began when one of our students asked this question:



"How can we resist temptations such as drugs & alcohol?"

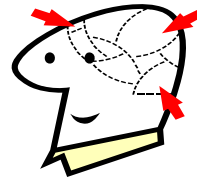
That sure is an IMPORTANT question in this day & age! But guess what! It is an IMPORTANT question for ANY day & age! People had problems with these kind of things even thousands of years ago! And God ALWAYS knew His children would have problems with these kinds of things. That is why He WROTE DOWN HIS ANSWER to this problem of temptation for us so that we could READ it OVER & OVER again & LEARN IT really well & then OBEY HIS ANSWER! We find God's ANSWER to this question & all

of our questions right there is our KING JAMES BIBLE from 1611!

So far in our study, we have seen that God has given us His WORD & a special SPIRITUAL ARMOR for our minds to give us POWER & a SOUND MIND! Get all those lessons if you need to review.

What is POWER? Power is the ability to do something! It is the ability to act a certain way! God is our ONLY real source of POWER to resist the powerful temptations that Satan sends our way! God has given ALL His children the way to have POWER or the ability to DO something about those temptations to RESIST them.

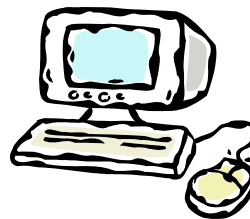
What is a SOUND MIND? Well, we all know that our MIND is the part of us where we do our THINKING. And what kind of mind does God say He gives His children? A SOUND MIND! What does the word SOUND mean when it is used to describe something? The dictionary tells us that when the word SOUND is used to describe something it means this: “in good condition; healthy; reliable; honorable.”



God has given ALL His children the way to have a SOUND MIND. God gives all His children the way to have a mind that is in GOOD condition; healthy; reliable; honorable. To have a reliable & honorable mind means that our minds are filled with truths that we can trust to be absolutely right & helpful to us, truths that we can trust will help us make good decisions. Only God's truths are RELIABLE for making RIGHT decisions in our lives - decisions

that will be best for us & will bring honor to God . How has God done this? He has given us the MIND OF CHRIST - what Jesus thinks about everything - all written down for us to know right there in our King James Bible. God says He has given ALL His children the ability to KNOW what Jesus says as well as the ability to DO what Jesus says. Only when our MINDS are FILLED with God's Word will it be in a HEALTHY CONDITION! The ONLY reliable & honorable thoughts in our minds are the thoughts we receive when we READ GOD'S WORD! You see, our minds are like a

COMPUTER!



Our minds will be filled only with what we ALLOW TO BE PUT INTO IT! If all we read or listen to every day are the things that the news papers & magazines & books & TV programs & radio programs of the world tell us, then our minds will NOT be healthy or reliable or honorable according to GOD'S standards. So, PROGRAM your MIND with GOD'S WORD & it will be SOUND! And that SOUND MIND is part of the POWER that will help you RESIST TEMPTATION! Here is what God says to His children about PROGRAMMING their minds with His POWERFUL WORD: Romans 12:2 KJB

"And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

And so to help us PROGRAM OUR MINDS -
RENEW OUR MINDS - with what GOD says is
GOOD & ACCEPTABLE & PERFECT to keep our
minds in GOOD CONDITION- HEALTHY, RELI-
ABLE, HONORABLE, we are now going to con-
tinue with part 9 of our study concerning the
ARMOR OF GOD!

God has given us SPIRITUAL ARMOR to protect
our THINKING! You can read about this armor in Ephe-
sians 6:10-18. Parts 1-8 in our lessons on this topic explain
the parts of this armor. Also, as part of this armor, God
has given all His children to spiritual weapons.

One is



THE SWORD
OF
THE SPIRIT



In our last 2 lessons on this topic,
we learned that the SWORD of the SPIRIT is the
WORD of GOD! We learned that when our minds
are FILLED or PROGRAMED with God's Word,
we'll be ready to use JUST THE RIGHT part of His
Word to CUT THROUGH all of Satan's lies! Our
Lord Jesus Christ gave us an excellent example of
how to use God's Word as a SWORD to smash down
Satan's lies when He was out in the wilderness for 40
days & 40 nights without eating. This time in the
desert was part of God's plan for Jesus to show us
just how powerful God's Word is. Sometimes God
brings His children to places of testing - problems, tempta-

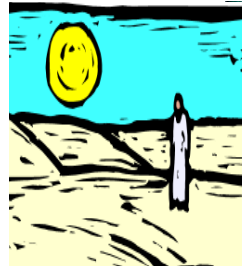
tions - not to tempt us to sin, but to PROVE to us that when we believe His Word & obey it during those times, He will get us through the tests & problems perfectly! And when we do what He says at those times, we eventually see His promises come true. And when we see that, we learn that God is REAL & we can TRUST HIM for EVERYTHING in our lives! John 13:19 We grow to love Him more & our faith in Him grows stronger! We ought to thank God for every test He sends! Tests & trials give God the opportunity to show us that He is REAL & ALL WISE & ALL POWERFUL!

And so the 40 days in the wilderness was the time especially designed for Jesus to be TESTED or TEMPTED by Satan.

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered."

Matthew 4:1-2 KJB



After Jesus had been out there all that time with no food, He was really hungry. We complain if we miss ONE meal sometimes! Imagine going 40 DAYS without food! Satan came to Jesus when Jesus was REALLY HUNGRY! Satan does that to us too! He waits until we are really down about something, then he sends temptations like drugs or alcohol our way. He makes us think that these things will solve our problems. Well, they sure WON'T. In fact, these things make our problems WORSE! Now let's read how Jesus used the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT to RESIST Satan's evil temptations:

"And when the tempter came to him, he said,



If thou be the son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

Matthew 4:3 KJB



Now of course, Jesus could have gotten food any time He wanted to! Jesus is God! But this time in the desert was NOT the time for Jesus to prove He was God's Son. This time in the desert was especially designed to show Satan & us too, that God's Word is more powerful than Satan's lies & temptations! Now just so you know, Satan did NOT have to see PROOF that Jesus was God's Son! Satan & all his devils & demons ALREADY KNEW that Jesus is God's Son! This scripture tells us this:

"And the devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, thou art Christ the Son of God. And he (Jesus) rebuking *them* suffered (did not allow) them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ."

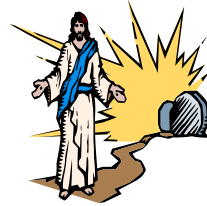
Luke 4:41 KJB

So if Satan did not need to see proof that Jesus was God's Son, then WHY did Satan TEMPT Jesus to turn those stones into bread to PROVE He was God's Son? Satan certainly did NOT feel bad that Jesus was hungry. So WHY did He tempt Jesus this way? Because Satan wanted to get Jesus to do something that was NOT in God's plan for Him at THIS time! You see, the time in the wilderness was NOT the time that God the Father had planned for Jesus to PROVE He was the Son of God. If Jesus had

turned those stones into bread to prove He was God's Son there in that desert, He would NOT have been following God's plan. God had planned for Jesus to prove He was His Son at ANOTHER time. Can you guess when that time was? Romans 1:3-4 tells us:

"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh:

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Romans 1:3-4 KJB



God's plan was that Jesus would PROVE He was God's Son by His RESURRECTION, NOT by turning stones to bread in the wilderness because He was hungry! But Jesus did NOT give in to Satan's temptation to disobey God's plan.

Instead, Jesus used the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT to resist Satan's temptation to disobey God's plan! Jesus chose the EXACT right scripture from God's written Word to resist Satan! Here is what Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4 KJB

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

If you read the rest of Matt 4:5-11, you will see that Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit to answer every temptation & then the devil left. Jesus was able to resist every temptation with His Spiritual weapon - The Sword of the Spirit! And so can you! LEARN GOD'S WORD!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.



From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.

Grace Christian Fellowship

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