

“It Is Written”: Using the Weapon of the Word

Pastor John Carmichael

[Mat 4:1-11 NASB95] 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand 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 WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON [their] HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very 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 fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and [began] to minister to Him.

- When we understand the Bible is “inspired” or “God breathed” it becomes more than a book.
- It carries authority. The fact that God spoke these words gives it authority over our lives to tell us how to live.
- The authority it carries is also a weapon God has given to us to use against the enemy (not people.)
- In Matthew, Jesus used the Word of God against the enemy in His great time of temptation/testing.
- Jesus did not silently disagree with the devil. He answered him with the Word of God.

What does using the Word of God as a weapon do for us from this passage?

The weapon of the Word will do the following five things.

I. Defend Identity

- a. Better translated “since” not “if”. This was not a question because Satan knew it. He was challenging Jesus’ identity. “Prove it.”
- b. He challenges our identity. We need to allow the Word define who we are.
- c. Example: [Col 3:1-4 NASB95] 1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

II. Deflect Temptation/Testing

- a. “Peirazo” – “testing” more than “temptation to sin”
- b. Three sins – I John 2:16
 - i. Lust of the flesh – bread to stone
 - ii. Pride of life – jump off the pinnacle
 - iii. Lust of the eyes – I will give you everything you see (this was to short cut the cross)
- c. [Psa 119:9 NASB95] 9 Beth. How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping [it] according to Your word.

III. Detour Deception

- a. Satan quotes (misquotes) Scripture.
 - i. Wrong quote.

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- ii. Wrong application.
- b. Example: [Gen 3:1-6 NASB95] 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make [one] wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
- c. [2Ti 2:15-18 NASB95] 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly [and] empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 [men] who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

IV. Defeat Enemy

- a. Satan left. Defeated.
- b. We can use the word to defeat everything the enemy is trying to do against us.
- c. [Rev 19:15 NASB95] 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.
- d. [Eph 6:17 NASB95] 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

V. Draw Angelic Help

- a. The Word of God draws the help of angels.
- b. [Psa 103:20 NASB95] 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!

- **The authority of Bible is a weapon believers can use against the enemy.**