

Root Work — Lesson 3

Trusting God with Open Hands - The Example of Jesus

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 4:1–11 — Jesus tempted in the wilderness
- Matthew 3:17 — The Father’s affirmation of Jesus
- Deuteronomy 8:3 — Dependence on God’s Word
- Psalm 62:5 — Expectation from God alone
- Psalm 119:11 — Hiding God’s Word in our hearts
- Proverbs 29:25 — The fear of man versus trust in God
- Galatians 1:10 — Living to please God, not people
- James 4:7 — Submit to God, resist the devil
- 1 Peter 5:8 — The enemy seeks to devour
- Ephesians 6:17 — The Word of God as the sword of the Spirit

The Three Temptations

1. Temptation #1 — Control & Provision
Satan tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread. Jesus resists by quoting Scripture, showing that dependence on God's Word is greater than immediate physical or emotional needs. Believers learn that obedience often requires waiting and trusting God’s provision.
2. Temptation #2 — Approval & Identity
Satan tempts Jesus to prove His identity publicly. Jesus refuses to force God’s hand or seek public validation. Believers learn that identity rooted in God’s voice frees them from seeking approval from others.
3. Temptation #3 — Power & Influence
Satan offers Jesus earthly authority without the cross. Jesus chooses worship and obedience instead of shortcuts. Believers learn that God’s promises cannot be fulfilled through disobedience.

Spiritual Principles

- Temptation often follows obedience and spiritual growth.
- The enemy targets areas where God is developing maturity.
- Submission to God precedes spiritual authority.
- Scripture is a weapon against deception.
- Identity in Christ removes the need for self-promotion.
- God’s timing requires trust rather than control.

Application Questions

- Where am I tempted to take control instead of trusting God?
- Where am I seeking approval instead of resting in my identity in Christ?
- Where am I tempted to pursue influence or results outside of God’s timing?
- What Scripture (rhema) can I stand on when temptation comes?
- How can I practice open-handed surrender in daily life?

Key Takeaway

Open-handed trust means choosing obedience over shortcuts, identity over approval, and surrender over power. Like Jesus, believers overcome temptation by standing on God’s Word and submitting to His will.