



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: The Sword of the Spirit (Forces of Darkness pt 6)

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Prayer

"Heavenly Father, We thank You for Your grace that teaches us to say no to temptation. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may walk in His power and resist the devil's schemes. Renew our minds with Your truth, that we may know Your will and live in victory. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Message Theme

Overcoming Temptation

Key Truths

Ever feel tempted? You're not alone! Even Jesus dealt with it. The key is to remember it's a constant battle, not just a one-time thing. But here's the good news: God's not gonna leave you hanging. He's given you His Word as a weapon, and His grace empowers you to resist the devil's tricks.

Remember, your spirit is already saved, but your mind and body need some work. Feed your spirit with the Bible, tell your body who's boss, and let God change the way you think. When you walk in the Spirit, victory is yours!

Practical Application

You are a new creation in Christ, with God's divine nature dwelling within you. Don't give up! Keep fighting the good fight of faith, and you will experience the abundant life that Jesus promised. Here are some ways you can apply this message to your life.

- **Embrace the Truth:** Recognize that temptation is a constant battle for all Christians, including Jesus. Accept that you are not alone in facing temptation and that victory is possible through Christ.
- **Arm Yourself with the Word of God:** Read and meditate on the Bible daily. Memorize key verses about resisting temptation and walking in the Spirit. Apply relevant scriptures to specific areas of temptation in your life.
- **Resist the Devil:** Say "NO" to the enemy's lies and temptations. Refuse to cooperate with his

schemes to steal, kill, and destroy. Be vigilant and aware of his tactics, recognizing his attempts to deceive and discourage you.

- **Cultivate a Spirit-Led Life:** Surrender your body as a living sacrifice to God, refusing to let your flesh control your decisions. Renew your mind with the truth of God's Word, allowing it to transform your thoughts and actions. Walk in the Spirit, allowing His guidance and power to lead you in righteousness.
- **Seek God's Grace:** Remember that God's grace empowers you to overcome temptation and live a life of victory. Rely on the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in moments of weakness. Confess your sins and receive forgiveness, knowing that God's love and mercy are always available.

Reference Verses

- Matthew 4:1-11
- Romans 7:23
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- John 10:10
- James 4:7
- 2 Timothy 2:26

Declarations

- ***I am not ignorant. I know the Word of God and I will use it to resist temptation.***
- ***I will not be passive. I will resist the devil and his schemes.***
- ***I am a new creation in Christ. My spirit is saved, my mind is being renewed, and my body will be redeemed.***
- ***I present my body as a living sacrifice to God. I will not let my flesh control me.***
- ***I choose to walk in the Spirit. I will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.***
- ***I am a child of God. I have victory over sin and temptation through Jesus Christ.***

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

The Sword of the Spirit

Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him 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 shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Romans 7:23 KJV But I see another law in my members ...

1 Peter 5:8-9a NKJV Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith ...

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

Matthew 4:2-4 NKJV And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "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 by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" "

Ephesians 6:17 NKJV and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Titus 2:11-12 NKJV For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...

Titus 2:12 NIRV His grace teaches us to say no to godless ways and sinful desires.

1 Peter 5:8 NKJV Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

James 4:7 NKJV ...Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

John 10:10 NKJV The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Mark 5:1-20 NKJV Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind [b]him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore[c] You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

2 Timothy 2:26 NKJV ...escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

James 1:14-15 NKJV But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 16:19-30 NKJV “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

Romans 12:1 NKJV I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 7:23 NKJV ...the law of sin which is in my members.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

1 John 3:9 NKJV Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him...

Romans 12:2 GW Don’t become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think.

Romans 12:2 NKJV ...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

Psalms 119:128 NKJV Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right...

Galatians 5:16 NKJV I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NKJV But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Ephesians 4:22 NKJV ... that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts...

Matthew 6:16-18 NKJV “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I

say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Matthew 4:4 NKJV ...'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' ”