



PREPARING FOR BATTLE

“The Sword of the Spirit” | Pastor Joe Yoshihara | March 22, 2026

Ephesians 6:10-17

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,



Ephesians 6:10-17

against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done



Ephesians 6:10-17

all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.



Ephesians 6:10-17

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...**



Leader: **The Word of the Lord**
Congregation: **Amen! Praise be to God!**



Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves



Matthew 4:1-11

of bread.”⁴ But he answered, “It is written,
““Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God.””

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and
set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and



Matthew 4:1-11

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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”



Matthew 4:1-11

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again 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 I will give you, if



Matthew 4:1-11

you will fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.



Matthew 4:1-2

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.



Testing v. Tempting

God tests us, Satan tempts us.



Matthew 4:3

³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”



How Satan Tempts Us

1. Satan tempts us to **meet legitimate desires in sinful ways.**



Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered, “It is written,
““Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God.””



How Satan Tempts Us

1. Satan tempts us to meet legitimate desires in sinful ways.
2. Satan tempts us to **presumptuously test God.**



Matthew 4:5-6

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and 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,



Matthew 4:5-6

“He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.””



Matthew 4:7

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”



Testing God **inverts** our relationship with
Him.



How Satan Tempts Us

1. Satan tempts us to meet legitimate desires in sinful ways.
2. Satan tempts us to presumptuously test God.
3. Satan tempts us to **idolatry**.



Matthew 4:8-9

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 I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”



Matthew 4:10-11

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.



Satan didn't leave because Jesus knew the Scriptures. Satan left because Jesus **lived** the Scriptures.



Application

1. Commit to **tenaciously applying** God's Word.

