

JOKE: A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard, when suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After several hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Jesus is Lord' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk.

Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car.

And that is what I want to look at this morning, identity.

We started a new series entitled Living by the Spirit. And last time we were together we looked at:

John 10:10 **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

I mentioned that the only time the thief comes is when he has destruction in mind.

Before I continue however let me remind you of a couple things from last time. First, I believe Jesus came to demonstrate how we can maintain a victorious life.

With that I asked what people, yes even Christians do when we are bored or depressed. And the truth was we feed the soul of man (the mind, will, and emotions) rather than the Spirit of the man. And what we feed is what will grow.

We need to learn to feed our spirit more.

I also mentioned what God's design was and that was: God designed the Spirit to be king. He designed our Soul to be servant. And he designed our body to be slave.

But the soul doesn't like being a servant and since the soul was king for so long it is constantly trying to go back to being king, however, we need to bring the soul into subjection of what the Spirit is telling us.

This week I want to take up this series by talking about Jesus and the temptations in the wilderness.

Now before I go there it's important to realize that when we slip back into the soulish realm we open up windows for the enemy to tempt us.

James 1:13 - ¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

God cannot be tempted think about that statement for a minute, why can't God be tempted?

Because God is light, God is love and love can't be tempted, love conquers all. God is good and only good, but ultimately God is spirit and only spirit. And there is no temptation in the spirit it's only in your soul in which we can be tempted. It's through your mind, your will, and emotions.

But watch this verse 14 - ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

There's the soul again. We are tempted when we allow the soul to be king.

Now let's continue verse 15 - ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

See whenever we allow the soul to be king we allow the enemy to come in and tempt us.

Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Let me read this from the KJV because there are some scriptures in the NIV that have left out really key phrases and this is one of those so let me read this to you in the KJV of Scripture.

Romans 8:1 (KJV) - *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Is he talking about the body? NO. When the Bible talks about flesh it is not talking about flesh like you and I do. He's talking about the soulish realm.

That could be paraphrased this way, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the soul (that is your mind, will, or emotions), but after the Spirit.

When you walk in the spirit there is no condemnation and there is no temptation that will take you.

Watch this verse 5 - Romans 8:5 (KJV) - ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Remember what you feed grows.

The flesh is the thing that will conjure up ways to satisfy the soulish man. The mind creates ways to satisfying that unsatisfiable crave side of them.

They mind things on the flesh. But they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:6 (KJV) - ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death;

There it is again. We talked about Adam and Eve and how their choices killed them in Spirit. And here it is again, when you allow the soul to become king, it will immediately kill your spirit.

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Let me tell you something one of the ways to measure your own spiritual healthiness is the peace of God. The peace of God

should rule and reign. My soul should be at rest when my spirit is in control.

My soul is at rest when it has been made servant and I yield to the spirit of God that lives inside me. There's peace and harmony inside of my spirit, but the moment I slip into the soulish realm all of a sudden what happens to that peace? It's gone.

There's disturbance, frustration, angry, bitterness, there's jealousy and envy.

Let me ask you do have peace in your heart. Some of you are going to have peace for the first time in a long time here today.

Here's what happens church – too often we try to conquer our flesh or our soul with our soulish or our own efforts.

We allow the soul to become king, we open our souls up to temptation and then we go try and will our way out of it.

I'm not going to think about this, Oh God help me not to get into this.

We think we are going to overcome that situation with our mind.

We think we are going to overcome it through our will, I know I can conquer this. I love Jesus I'm not going to give into this.

Let me tell you something church the soul will never kill the soul. You will never will your way out of sin. You will never make a decision out of your soul that you're not going to do it.

Some of us have been struggling with the same issue for years and it's because we are trying to conquer it with the soul and it will never work.

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV) - ⁶ So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.

It’s not by your determination, it’s not by your physical power, but it’s by my Spirit says the Lord.

Souls need to be dethroned here this morning in Jesus name.

Spirits are going to take their rightful place as king. King Jesus the King of Kings, the Spirit of God is going to take rightful reign over us.

So, with that being said let’s begin part two of this series.

We are going to pick up with Jesus in the wilderness. The story is found in Luke 4.

I want to show you that if we will learn from Jesus we can live a victorious life.

Luke 4 verse 1 says this: Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit.

How many know that we are supposed to give away to others the gifts we receive?

Acts 3:1–8 (NIV): One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I

do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

That is why we need to be constantly filled with the Spirit.

Jesus full of the Holy Spirit left the Jordan. What happened at the Jordan? That’s where he was baptized. In fact if you look at Matthews account Matthew chapter 3 ends with Jesus being baptized. And when he comes out of the water heaven split and John saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove upon Jesus. And he knew what it was and said behold the Lamb of God.

And a voice came from heaven and said this is My Son in whom I am well pleased.

And straight from their Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit left the Jordon. It’s important that you know that. And I will let you know why in a moment. Full of the Holy Spirit left the Jordon, and He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

The Holy Spirit leads Him into the wilderness or some translations use desert.

That goes against our teaching. We have been taught that God is going to lead me into all these wonderful things. But let me tell you something, the Spirit led life will lead you where your flesh and emotions do not want to go.

He led Him by the Spirit into the desert and for 40 days He was tempted by the devil. We’re going to come back to this in just a moment, but I need to read through this first.

Luke 4:2–4 (NIV) - ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” ⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

Actually Matthew finishes that statement it was actually quoted out of Deuteronomy 8:3

Matthew says Man shall not live on bread alone. How many of you know we need bread to live, but he continues and says but on every word the proceeds from the mouth of God.

Listen church I want to go after every word not just some of the good ones, but every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Hear this church you don’t live by some of the words of God; you live by every word of God.

And let me remind you God is always speaking. He is always revealing revelation. But it is for us to seek it out.

The second temptation Luke 4:5 (NIV) - ⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

It was a supernatural experience. And he said to Him. Verse 6

Luke 4:6 (NIV) - ⁶And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor;

Satan said that – Do you know what he was trying to tap into? He was trying to tap into the ego side of man in Jesus.

He said listen you don't need to go this hard route, the cross you were called to bear, I have a better plan. He said: I will give you all.

Let me tell you something Jesus did not deny the fact that Satan at that point had the ability to do it. Because Adam and Eve had handed all authority over to Satan, but Jesus disarmed him at Calvary and took all the authority back at the resurrection. And He gave it to us as the church. In fact Colossians 2:15 says:

Colossians 2:15 (NIV) - ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Satan has no weapons. The only weapon he has is the weapon of lie, he is called the father of lies, and the moment you believe him you have given him that authority.

I am sick and tired of us giving the devil way to much credit. He is a defeated foe.

He says I will give you all this because it has been given to me, SEE THAT and I can give it to anyone I want to.

That was then, not now. Now watch this.

Luke 4:7 (NIV) - ⁷If you worship me. . . LOOK AT THAT

Satan, do you know what got him kicked out of heaven? He wanted worship. And here he is still wanting worship.

You know why? Because he wants to be God and God is the only one to be worshipped. And if he can get worship that means he's God. He's still trying to get what got him kicked out of the presence of God in the first place. He's crafty but he's stupid.

Let me tell you church be careful about falling prey to the praises of men. Because the praises of men can make you a false god.

Jesus when he was on this earth never sought the praises of men, THE SON OF GOD, never sought the praises of men. WHY? Because he knew that that was the very thing that made Satan Satan.

What you mean pastor by saying what made Satan, satan? Great question glad you asked, look at this. . .

In Isaiah 14 he is called Lucifer, do you know what that name means? Light bringer. But when he decided to try and take the throne of God he was cast down no longer called Lucifer, but Satan which means adversary.

Let me get back to what we were talking about. . .

Let's continue: Luke 4:8 (NIV) - ⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: "

Notice he always responded with the Word of God. That's the reason church we have got to love this book.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Why? Because only God deserves worship. But Satan was wanting it. Only God. Your pastor doesn't deserve worship; the greatest preacher in the world does not deserve worship. They deserve honor, but not worship.

Worship the Lord your God and serve him only because there is One God Satan and it is not you.

Luke 4:9 (NIV) - ⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here.

Again he says IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD. It amazes me he comes back to the very same question and what was the last thing Jesus heard before he was led into the desert? He heard His Father’s voice say this is my son in whom I am well pleased.

And the devil comes back and two times in this temptation says if you are the Son of God throw yourself down from here.

Luke 4:10 (NIV) - ¹⁰ For it is written:

And so the devil starts trying to quote Scripture, but let me tell you, when the devil quotes Scripture he always takes it out of context.

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Luke 4:12 (NIV) - ¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Now watch this verse 13. ¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Just because we think the devil isn’t around you much right now, I want you to know if your living for Jesus walking in truth, living right he will be like Arnold. . .I’ll be back!

Matthew ends with what is a very amazing passage of Scripture

Matthew 4:11 (NIV) - ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Isn't that awesome. The angels are sent to us to minister to us. I need to try and wrap this up but there are a few things you need to get here today.

You have to notice that the very first thing the spirit does is lead Him into the desert. Church I am convinced that Jesus' body and soul did not want to spend 40 days in the desert. I am certain He didn't want to go without food for that long. And the point I want to bring to you is this:

The spirit will lead us to places that you would never want to go to in the natural. But it is better to be in the desert with the spirit, then to have a life of ease and comfort without the Holy Ghost.

Exodus 33:15–16 (NIV): Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.
16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

Let me read this verse from The Message translation. . .

Exodus 33:15–16 (The Message) ^{15–16} Moses said, “If your presence doesn't take the lead here, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you're with me in this, with me and your people? Are you traveling with us or not? How else will we know that we're special, I and your people, among all other people on this planet Earth?”

Remember I mentioned it is important to remember that we read and Jesus left the river? Here's why. . . Satan will question in your desert, what God told you at the river.

For those of you who may not know the river represents revival and the presence of God.

And I believe one of the very first things Satan wants to challenge you with is your identity.

He will challenge your identity. . . IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD.

IF YOU REALLY ARE A CHRISTIAN, IF YOU REALLY ARE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST, IF YOU REALLY ARE . . . he will question because listen our authority flows directly from our position and our identification.

The way that we see our self, the way that we understand who we are in Christ the greater authority you will work in.

Listen David understood who he was in 1 Samuel 17 Goliath says are you not a servant of Saul. Yes they were a servant of Saul, but they were so much more, they were a servant of the living God.

But if all you see yourself as is a member of The Potters House all you are going to have is the authority I as a man as the pastor of this church can give to you. But if you can understand that you are a child of the Living God and that you are an ambassador for Christ, then friend there is nothing that you cannot do.

Don't settle for an identity that is less than what God has called you too. It is a settle lie of the enemy.

He will challenge your identity.

When the spies went into the promised land 10 of them came back and they came with this report: We were like grasshoppers in our own eyes.

When you have a grasshopper identity, there is not much authority that goes along with that. The devil will attack your identity.

Church listen to me, we are more than just sinners saved by grace. I am more than that, I am a son of the Living God. I am an ambassador for Christ and I have the authority of His name to do great exploits. I can say to the Little David's deaf eye and create a miracle telling them to be opened in the name of Jesus.

Satan will attack your identity. The devil said to him verse 3. If you really are the son of God tell this stone become bread.

Let me tell you a tactic of the devil. You can see it here, the tactic of the devil is this, the devil is always trying to pick a fight. He always. . . watch this listen carefully he's always trying to lure you out of the spirit realm, because in the spirit you have the authority to trample on scorpions, serpents, and over all the power of the darkness.

He's trying to lure you, he's trying to pick a fight he's trying to lure you out of the spirit realm into the soulish realm where you are nothing, but serpent bait.

Because remember the curse that was put upon Satan in the garden, because of this thing you will eat the dust of the earth.

You are nothing but dust friend. When you step out of the spirit let me tell you something, if you will learn to walk in the spirit the devil is no match because Jesus is in you and there is no

comparison. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

But you let him lure you out of the spirit into the flesh. Listen I can almost see Satan with the smirk on his face saying SON OF GOD RIGHT. SHOW ME SPEAK TO THAT ROCK SON OF GOD.

Let me tell you something one of the tactics of the enemy is that when you start walking in the spirit, he is going to send some of the most irritating, snottiest people in your life.

Some of the most aggravating situations he's going to set it up.

Let me say something else I'm going to expose that joker, it's interesting to me, think about it what was the first temptation that Satan brought against Jesus? His first temptation was if you are the son of God, it's the same temptation as the last one.

The first and the last temptation both focus on Jesus' identity. And both of them also focus on Jesus' natural and soulish ambitions.

He was hungry turn this stone into bread. If you are show me your power. Dealing with his ego.

Look at Matthew 27 verse 39: ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

The same identity issue. Matthew 27:41 (NIV) - ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.

Yah right you really saved others it was all some sort of magic, you didn't really heal anybody. You didn't open any blinded eyes, you didn't save anybody it was trickery. You're a fake.

Listen they despised him probably more than you have despised anyone. Listen Jesus was still a man, there was still some natural feelings in there. Jesus is making a choice all the way up to the point of death. I'm I going to finish this thing in the spirit or am I at the last minute going to blow it.

(Say with sarcasm) you really saved others, and you can't even save yourself, yah right you're really the King of Israel aren't you? Come on down from the cross and we will believe you. Oh sure you trust in God. Put your trust in God, Jesus, put your trust in God. Let God rescuer Him if God really wants Him. God doesn't even want you Jesus. Your Father doesn't love you or He would save you.

See the devil is giving Him one last shot trying to lure Him, if He will just slip out of the spirit for one second I have him.

Listen there are some in this church that have been wounded and hurt so bad that it is humanly impossible for you to forgive, but I want you to know in the Spirit just like that (snap fingers) it can be gone.

And you can be free from the bitterness that is in you. You are the victim twice stop it. Don't let the devil do that to you. Release them it's their problem. Let them live with it.

Watch this it is the same thing Satan has been trying to do all along. Satan is not even creative.

Do you realize Satan cannot create anything. Because when he was kicked out of heaven all the anointing's and gifting's to create music to worship was gone.

Satan does not inspire people through creation he can't do it. Only God is the creator. And we are created because He lives inside of us.

That's one reason why he despises us because the very thing he lived for at one time he lost the ability he can't even think up a new tactic.

All he can do is copy. All he can do is mimic. All he can do is try to counterfeit what God is doing. But he is not creative anymore.

Listen we create things with our mouth. And we need to be careful I can remember saying things to new converts and what I said was something like when you leave this place the devil is going to come and knock your lights out. So get ready for that. You know what I was wrong for saying that.

See what should be said is the devil is not going to be able to come in because you're smarter than he is.

There doesn't have to be a back lash. As a matter of fact I never saw a back lash in Scripture with Jesus.

He is not creative he's a copycat. He's a loser. That's why he keeps using the same tactics over and over again.

Now let me challenge your theology. I am not establishing a doctrine I am simply asking a question. When Satan asked Jesus if you are the son of God speak to this stone and cause it to turn

to bread. Here's my question: Don't say your answer out loud but . . . could Jesus have done that?

I have always said yes, but think about this could Jesus had done that? And now I am not so sure my answer would be yes. Let me explain why. Number 1 – I want to remind you that Jesus himself said he could do not one miracle without His Father.

In fact John 5:19 ¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Would His Father have turned the stone into bread at that moment? Was He able to do is yes, He is God. Would He do it no, it was against the will of the Father.

And if Jesus would have stepped out of the spirit into the flesh and not been obedient to the spirit he would have in some ways been obedient to the devil.

Listen I am one of those guys that are a sucker for a dare that will get you in trouble. Don't tell me what I can't do.

I believe and listen I'm not giving a new theology, but if Jesus would have done that he would have stepped out of the spirit in to the flesh. And it's possible He would have never made it to the cross.

Another reason why I question rather He could or not is because if He would have done it he would have done it out of the wrong motive.

Church we need to understand why we do things is so important.

James 4:1 (NIV) - What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

You know what that is? Your soul.

James 4:2–3 (NIV) - ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Then look at this verse 4 James 4:4 (NIV) - ⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

Listen the spirit desires kingship in our lives and when the spirit is not king and soul is king you have become an adulterer because you have given your heart and soul to the world.

Even through you are this way He gives us more grace.

James 4:6 (NIV) - ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

You have to first submit to God and then you can resist the devil.

James 4:8 (NIV) - ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Listen he is talking to the church, but what does double-minded mean? It doesn't mean you believe you don't believe, you believe you don't believe, you believe you don't believe.

Doubt faith, doubt faith.

He's talking about you have a mind of the spirit and you have a mind of the soul and stop it. Your being double minded.

You have the mind of Christ and the next thing you know you're thinking like man.

Develop the mind of Christ. Can you give me just five minutes more?

I want to show you something. If Jesus would have done this I don't believe He would have done it with the right motive and that was to honor the Father.

He said everything I do I do to honor the father, that is the right motive.

Because I love Him and I want to honor Him, that's the right motive.

But if He would have done this He would have done it to show up the devil. He would have taken him up on his dare.

Another thing that would have happened is that Jesus would have used the anointing and the gifts of the Spirit to have personal satisfaction and gratification.

And the Gifts of the Spirit and anointing's that God gives us is never for our own gratification, but rather for the edification of the body. It's to allow others to have a God encounter.

See He did multiply bread for the multitudes, but He wasn't going to turn stone into bread for Himself.

1 Corinthians 12 is teaching us that the gifts of the Spirit are for edifying the body. And listen none of us operates fully in all the gifting's we need one another. Because you have gifts of the spirit that I need and vice versa. We are relying upon one another.

I want to close with this question: Why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the desert to be tempted?

After all Jesus even says in the Lord's Prayer one of the things to pray for is to lead us not into temptation. That's part of the Lord's Prayer. And yet the very first thing that happens when He gets full of the spirit is lead into the desert to be tempted.

And listen I don't purpose to know all the answers but can I give you a couple of thoughts?

The first one's this: I believe he led Him straight to the desert because there's a principle that says personal victories must come before public victories. Personal victories must precede public victories.

One of the most dangerous things that happens, and it happens all the time because we are so quick to promote talent, we are so quick to charisma and so what happens is a lot of people get public victories before their private life has victory over it and it destroys them and can be a shame to the body of Christ.

(mention recent ministry who fell because he had a sexual addiction he never conquered)

We are constantly embarrassed by the lack of integrity in leadership in the Body of Christ today.

But the way that God designs things is for personal victory to precede public victories.

The second reason is: I believe Jesus came to set an example for us, so that we could live a victorious life. I believe that. And so He showed us how to stay in the spirit and I only looked into the first temptation I didn't have time to go into the other ones, but if you look at it you will see how the devil was trying to lure Him into the soulish realm.

But Jesus showed us you need to stay in the spirit and you have to speak the word under the anointing. And if you do that Satan cannot debate with you he has to obey. He does not have a free will like you and I, he must obey the word that is spoken by the authority of Jesus. He has too.

So if we will learn to stay in the spirit and the moment I feel my flesh rise up I need to grab it and say no, get back down off that throne. Spirit of God you give me the right wisdom, countenance, the right motives, the right attitude, the right spirit to deal with whatever it is that is causing me to go crooked right now.

And then the third thing is I purpose to you that the Holy Spirit knew ahead of time Jesus would not be overcome by the temptations. He already knew in advance that Jesus was able.

Does not the Scripture say in 1 Corinthians 10 verse 13 - ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what

you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Listen God is never taken by surprise. He already knows the trials and temptations and listen if you are led by the Spirit he will not allow you, listen if you get out of the spirit and start going by the flesh you are going to fall into temptations you can't handle understand the difference. If your led by the spirit there is no temptation I can't handle, but if I slip out into my emotions, my thinking, my will. Guess what things will come my way and I won't be able to handle it. And I will find myself always asking for more grace. More grace Lord I blew it again.

But here is a 100% guarantee if you will walk by the spirit there is nothing that will come your way that you cannot handle. THAT'S GOOD NEWS.

Joy come so I'll shut up.

OK Listen, The Lord will catch this The Lord will allow the enemy to test you. But His purpose is not to destroy you. His purpose is to reveal to you, the areas that you don't even know are there. He will turn the heat up to reveal to you, He already knows what's in you.

But you don't know what's in you. You think your awesome, you think your God's gift. And you are, but you know what I'm saying.

You think you have arrived, we have not arrived. And He does it to reveal to you, your areas of weakness and wickedness that you have got to deal with.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV) - ²Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years,

Jesus had to do it for 40 days they did it for 40 years and both were led by the spirit.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV): Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you . . . ,

But only 2 of you made it. Joshua and Caleb. The rest of you, you were just stubborn and demanded to live in your soul and you died in the desert.

And I did this to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Proverbs 16:2 (NIV) - ²All a person's ways seem pure to them,

It's amazing everybody thinks the rules are for everyone else but them. They are the exception to the rule. Well you don't know my heart there's a reason I did that. Yah it's called flesh.

It seems pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV) - ⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

Can I tell you something we don't have to wait until that day so that we have to be embarrassed because of our motives. God is constantly allowing things to come your way to reveal things to you about yourself so that you can humble yourself, turn from our ways, you can rely upon Him and allow the Spirit of God to deliver you and walk in victory that's what I want. To walk in victory. For

the honor and glory of His name. This is the good news He always reveals to be new.

Prayer

Next we I we will begin looking at how to keep the Spirit King.