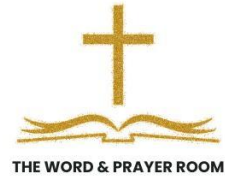


Settled Series



Day 5: The Enemy Knows the Word - Do We?

Quoting Scripture isn't power. Living it is.

Key Scripture: Matthew 4:5-7 (NLT)

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" 7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

Context: Knowing the Bible Is Not the Same as Believing It

Let's not miss the shock of this moment in Matthew 4: Satan quoted Scripture. Not vaguely. Not clumsily. Word for word. In context. From Psalm 91. He used the Bible to tempt Jesus - and he's still doing it to us today.

So, here's the uncomfortable truth: The enemy doesn't fear our Bible knowledge. He fears when we believe it, live it, and submit to it. He's not threatened by memory verses. He's threatened by obedience. If the devil can quote Scripture and still be evil, what does that say about us when we read it, share it, post it – but don't live it?

Why this matters now

Because we've equated biblical literacy with spiritual authority. But Satan is literate - and is still a liar. We've convinced ourselves that knowing what's right is enough. But spiritual power doesn't come from information, it comes from alignment. The enemy can use truth to manipulate, but God calls us to truth that transforms. The enemy doesn't mind us attending Bible studies, posting verses, or listening to podcasts, as long as we stay disobedient. He knows the Bible works. That's why he wants to keep us from actually doing it.

Why we struggle with this

- **We assume Bible knowledge equals maturity.** But knowing more doesn't mean living more.
- **We quote Scripture like a charm - not a command.** We speak it, but we don't obey it. That's not power – that's performance.
- **We forget that the devil knows how to twist truth.** And if we're not anchored, we'll fall for a verse that sounds right but leads wrong.

- **We admire the Word instead of submitting to it.** But admiration doesn't change us. Obedience does.

Verse Breakdown: Matthew 4:5-7 (NLT)

- **“For the Scriptures say...”** Satan doesn't ignore the Word. He weaponises it against those who don't understand it deeply.
- **“Jesus responded, ‘The Scriptures also say...’”** Jesus didn't just know the Word - He knew how to rightly divide it. That's what spiritual warfare looks like.
- **“You must not test the Lord your God.”** The Word doesn't exist to serve our reckless agendas. It exists to guide our surrendered lives.

Research That Backs This Up

- **Biblical literacy does not equate to spiritual maturity:** Research shows that Christians in the West often score high on Bible familiarity but low on actual obedience, especially in areas like justice, forgiveness, and humility
- **Satan's strategy is scripturally informed:** The first attack in the Garden of Eden was around misrepresenting God's Word. The same tactic shows up in Jesus' temptation, and it's still the enemy's go-to move.
- **Transformational discipleship requires submission, not just study:** According to [Lifeway Research](#), the most spiritually mature believers aren't those who know the most verses - they're those who consistently apply the Word to how they live, lead, give, and respond under pressure.

Key Themes

- The enemy doesn't fear Scripture - he fears surrender.
- Knowing the Word means nothing if we don't live it.
- The devil can quote Psalm 91 - but he doesn't obey it.
- The Bible is not a magic trick - it's a covenant.
- The real question isn't “Do we know the Word?” - it's “Does the Word have authority in us?”


Practical Application

- **Test yourself, not just the Word.** Is there an area in your life where you quote Scripture but refuse to obey it?

- **Stop using the Bible as ammunition and start using it as instruction.** Read one hard command from Jesus this week - and do it.
- **Reflect on this:** Are you impressed by Scripture or submitted to it? The enemy is impressed too - but he still rebels.
- **Speak this declaration out loud:** “The Word of God is not for performance. It’s my pattern, my standard, my authority - and I live by it, not just post it.

Prayer

Father, I’ve memorised Your Word but haven’t always lived it. I’ve used it to defend myself - but not always to direct myself. Forgive me for turning truth into a slogan instead of a surrender. Let Your Word cut deeper than my habits, my pride, or my cleverness. I don’t want to be scripturally informed but spiritually weak. Make me someone who does what You say - not just repeats it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

 **Final Takeaway:** The devil can quote the Bible - that doesn’t make him godly. So why do we think it makes us? Real power isn’t in quoting the Word, it’s in surrendering to it. And when we finally do that, we’ll stop being impressed by what we know, and start being changed by what we obey.