

Living on the edge

(Freedom from bondage)

November 29, 2021

MATTHEW 4:5-7 AMP - (5) Then the devil took Him into the holy city [Jerusalem] and placed Him on the pinnacle (highest point) of the temple. **(6)** And he said [mockingly] to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU [to serve, care for, protect and watch over You]'; and 'THEY WILL LIFT YOU UP ON *their* HANDS, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" **(7)** Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written *and* forever remains written, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEST THE LORD YOUR GOD.'"

Have you ever felt like you were on the edge? Just simply tired, worn out or perhaps ready to throw in the towel? The bondage is so overwhelming. How did I even get into this situation? We ask, "Where is God?" Well, He was always there, but He watched as we made our own worldly decisions. Why? Because we didn't seek Him for the correct answer. We live on the edge and we live with mind sets of spiritual complacency which has caught up with us. The word bondage is defined as: "the state of being a slave." So, the term spiritual bondage would essentially mean "the state of being a spiritual slave." In general, we could use the term spiritual bondage to refer to anything that keeps us from being fully submitted to the lordship and power of Jesus in an area of our lives.

The phrase "spiritual bondage" is not one that is found in the Bible, but the Bible does mention that unbelievers are in bondage to sin and the Devil (**John 8:34; Acts 8:23; Romans 6:6, 16, 19; 7:14**). Believers cannot be a "possession" or slave of Satan for eternity, because they were purchased once and for all by the blood of Jesus. Instead of being bound by sin, believers should actively walk in the righteousness and freedom that God has provided for them (**1 Peter 1:18-19**; see also **John 8:36**). This does not mean that believers cannot experience spiritual or demonic "oppression" as a result of their own sinful choices or even their upbringing and if they are, they would be living on the edge as well.

There will always be the temptation to sin, so it is important that believers cut off temptation when it begins (**Matthew 6:13; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Galatians 6:1**). If believers allow sins like anger, lying, greed, unforgiveness, etc., to remain in their hearts, it becomes an open door to "give the devil a foothold" (**Ephesians 4:27**). If believers recognize that they have given the Devil a foothold in their lives, they need to humble themselves, seek the Lord, and resist the Devil (**James 4:6-8; Ephesians 6:10-18**).

You may not live in Jerusalem, but Satan will direct you to a high prideful time in your life, where you know it all and nobody can tell you anything, not even God. Have you been there? Are you there now? Do you feel the symptoms? Satan see's the high you're on and He is persuading you to jump! In the scripture, throw yourself down means to go on over. Jump! All Satan can do is persuade you. Jesus said, it is written *and* forever remains written, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEST THE LORD YOUR GOD.'" Satan even tried to tell Jesus that He would be in good hands if you would follow through his request.

You see, believers should never test God! God has given instructions. He doesn't change. He doesn't have a favorite person, but He has the best interest at hand for all who have a relationship with Him. So now things have gone too far and you ask God what should I do? What can I do YOU ASK? Well, know this, God does not give up on us. Repent! Come off that high mountain first of all. It's time to make a change. First, take recognition of what YOU have done! If you don't, you are in denial of the truth! Second, confess to God your disobedience to God for not listening. Third, listen to the initial instructions and apply them. There will possibly be consequences for our doing, but we must receive it and move forward. Life isn't over. And if needed, talk to someone reliable who can guide, encourage and (intercede) pray for/with you. This plan will work if you follow the instructions like Jesus did, instead of human wisdom.

SCRIPTURE READING: JUDGES 5:8

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Everything that is created begins in the mind.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"