

Trust Never Experiments Outside God's Will

by Kathryn Kuhlman

The sermon explores the critical difference between trust in God and presumption, urging believers to remain within God's will for true faith.

Duration: 21:51

Topics: "Will Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the temptation of Jesus in the holy city. He focuses on the second of the three templates, where the devil tempts Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple to prove his trust in God. The preacher emphasizes that this act would be presumption, not faith, and that Jesus refused to make a mockery of his trust in his heavenly Father. The sermon highlights the importance of keeping our relationship with God sacred and not feeling the need to prove it to the world.

Transcript

Here we are again in that second temptation of Jesus. I dare say that you have thought more about these temptations of Jesus and what the temptations really were than you have ever thought about them during your entire lifetime. And you're realizing now for the very first time that the enemy was so subtle in his attack.

He was so subtle in tempting Jesus that the real sin could not be seen on the surface. And do you want to know something? He is still that subtle in his temptation in your life and in mine. Something that seems so innocent in itself.

On the surface, you see no sin in it whatsoever. It almost looks reasonable. And yet the old boy is so cunning.

He is so subtle that it isn't long before we find out he's got us trapped. And it's just like that. He has the same personality he has always had.

He has the same bag of tricks. He has no new tricks. It's the same old bag of tricks.

So watch him. All right. Now I'm going to begin exactly where I left off when I left your home.

And I'm going to talk hard and fast in this little heart-to-heart talk because I want to finish up in this, the second of the temptations of Jesus. Then in our next heart-to-heart talk we'll begin with the third of the

three temptations. Let me just read again from the fourth chapter of Matthew, the fifth verse.

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Wherein was the temptation in this, the second of the enemy's attacks on Jesus? It was the sin of presumption. And I want to remind you again, if you forget everything else that I might say in the next 30 minutes, remember, precious Christian, there's a mighty thin line between trust and presumption, between faith and presumption.

Presumption can be sin. And presumption and trust are two different things. Turn now to consider the victory of Jesus.

And in doing so, look first of all at the weapon that Jesus used. The enemy was challenging Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the temple in the city of Jerusalem, before the whole world, to prove his trust in almighty God. Had Jesus yielded to the stubbornness of Satan, had Jesus jumped, as Satan was challenging him to do, he would have committed the sin of presumption.

The devil even quoted in Scripture in making this challenge to him. Why, he said, nothing will happen to you, for it is written, quoting Scripture, he shall give his angel charge concerning this. On their horns they shall bear thee up.

You won't get hurt. Go on. Prove your trust.

Prove your faith. Jump. He'll be right there with his angel.

They'll catch you. They'll happily now dash thy foot against the stone. It'll be like a man jumping off of the bridge.

And saying, I'm going to prove the word of God. I'm going to prove my trust. I'll prove my faith.

I'll jump off the bridge. Because the word of God says, he shall give his angel charge over thee. On their hands they shall bear thee up.

They'll happily now dash thy foot against the stone. To prove my trust in God, I'll jump off the bridge. Do you want to know what will happen? The oil boils round.

Why? It was not trust. It was not faith. It was presumption.

Yes. The enemy quoted Scripture. Now in the first translation, in answering the enemy, Jesus was the one who quoted the Scripture.

Jesus answered by saying, It is written. In the second translation, after the devil quoted the Scripture, and in the second translation, the devil was the first to quote the Scripture, Jesus answered the enemy by saying, Again, it is written. And in the use of the word again, we have a revelation of our Lord's perfect mastery of the weapon.

In comparison with Christ, I repeat again, the devil was certainly a poor swordsman. Oh, the devil can make us a fool of himself when he starts using the sword of the Spirit. It would seem as though with quiet and yet mighty movement of his strong arm, Jesus just wrested the sword right from the hand of Satan.

And the force of that wonderful word, again, lies in the fact that it is an answer to Satan, It is written. Jesus did not deny the correctness of the Satanic question, no ma'am. But he replies to it by saying, Again, it is written.

That is to say, there must be proper use made of the words of God. You must use God's words properly. Be careful how you use the Scripture.

Be careful what use you make of the word of God. No one statement, written from a context, is a sufficient warrant for action on anyone's part. Be careful how you use the Scripture.

It is written. You may point your finger to the certain person of the word of God and say, here it is. But be careful regarding the meaning.

Or the context. Regarding that person of the word of God. The devil quoted the Scripture, but he has taken it out of its context.

Has twisted its meaning. That's the reason Jesus quickly comes back and says, Again, it is written. And for the proper definition of life, no one isolated text is sufficient.

It is absolutely necessary that there should be acquaintance with the whole theme of the divine will of God. And the true balance and proportion of life. You must keep the Scripture in its context.

There must be a perfect balance for the use of that Scripture before you can claim it for a certain purpose. That's the reason we have so many false doctrines today. And practically every religious organization is based upon some Scripture.

They have to use some portion of the word of God as their foundation. It is based on some part of the word of God. But it's the easiest thing in the world to use Scripture for a purpose for which it was not intended.

What infinite value there is in that word again. How excellent a thing it would be if the whole church of Christ had learned that no law of life may be based upon an isolated text. It is always necessary to discover the varied sides and meanings of the truth.

Be careful how you use the Scripture. Be very careful. Every false teacher who has ever divided the church has had an it is written on which to hang his doctrine.

Every body of believers that has ever been divided it has been divided on it is written. But be careful. Be careful how you use the Scripture and for what purpose.

Again I repeat, every false teacher today uses Scripture. Every division of church has had as it's basis for division Scripture. What hope many a Christian would have been saved from heartbreak, from weeping.

Much reproach could have been saved the church if only we had used the Scripture wisely and for that purpose for which the word was given. To pass however to the actual Scripture with which Christ resisted the attack. This is what he said.

Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God. It's been somewhat commonly understood that here Jesus was addressing himself to the devil as though he should say to him thou ought not to make trial of me. But somehow it almost seems to mix the supreme value of the words.

In these words as in those with which he defeated the enemy in the first temptation he was defining his own position. Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God was addressed to man and in this quotation the Lord gave his reason for receiving the task himself from the wing of the temple. Right here Jesus took his position.

Right here the Lord gave his reason for refusing the task himself from the wing of the temple in Jerusalem. Thou shalt not make trial. Thou shalt not make mockery of the Lord thy God.

Thou shalt not make mockery of my trust in my heavenly Father. It's something too sacred to flaunt before the whole world. It's something too sacred to publicize.

It's something between God and myself and I don't have to prove it. It is something that is a living vital part of me. Oh, that's marvelous.

Here then is the exposure of the deepest meaning of this subtle account. What could be more extrajordy outward than that this perfect man should trust in God. What more sickening than that he should prove his trust by doing something, by taking some great risk.

In a sentence the Master strips the whole hypocrisy and he reveals the murderous intent. To have touched himself in the wing of the temple, to have touched himself down into the street, in the very last and final analysis would have demonstrated not trust but the lack of confidence. It is when we doubt a person that we make experiments to discover how far they would be trusted.

To make experiments of any kind with God is to reveal the fact that one is not quite sure of him. Trust never desires to tempt. Trust never desires to... One never trifles with trust and confidence.

Never. If you do not have confidence, it's then you have to do something to prove the trust you have in someone. Oh, sure.

The perfect trust just quietly abides in pure confidence. Oh, with what master skill this perfect gentleman has revealed the strength and at the same time the weakness of a satanic onslaught. The true territory of trust is revealed by the Lord's answer.

That territory is again the will of God. In effect, the master declared that he could trust God perfectly so long as he remained within the sphere of his revealed will. But that if he passed out of that sphere, if he took himself out of the will of God, then he had no right to trust.

He could no longer trust the hand and the protection and the power of any father. But Jesus knew he had that confidence. He knew that so long as he was in the will of a father, he could trust him completely.

He had that confidence. What infinite value for all of us there is in this unfolding of the true nature of faith in our God. The devil is saying, do something adventurous, do something magnificent, do something out of the ordinary and thus demonstrate your confidence.

Do something heroic and in so doing you demonstrate your faith, your trust. But the master is always replying, trust is not evident by such action. That would be to tempt God.

And to tempt Him is to reveal the depth of trust. Christ never makes experiments outside of the will of God. Never.

Never. Jesus refusing to tempt God demonstrated his perfect confidence in Him. And that revealed for all time the fact that man, so devoid of selfish interest as to be willing not to appear heroic, that in perfect confidence through Christ Jesus will come so victorious.

In these two temptations, the twofold nature of the Son of Man has been subjected to the nearest weakness in the physical realm of death. Strength in the spiritual realm was a fact. Physical weakness abiding in the will of God proves stronger than the mightiest force of evil.

And spiritual strength, calmly content with what seemed to be the commonplace of life was demonstrated to be mightier than all the subtleness of spiritual weakness. Oh joy. That is why, beloved, remember something.

We too can stand today in that glorious portion, the Word of God that's given in the Book of Romans. Oh, there it is. You and I are not only conquerors.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, I have that trust, I have that confidence that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. That is our trust.

That is our sure confidence. That is our faith. And, beloved, I would stake my life on the keeping power of our Heavenly Father.

That concludes this message. We hope it has been a blessing to you. For information about thousands of helpful messages such as this one, available for lending on a free or voluntary donation basis, write to us at the Springs of Living Water Tape Library.

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