

(Basics) 11. God's Word Helps Us Overcome Satan

by Zac Poonen

Zac Poonen emphasizes the power of God's Word as a weapon to overcome Satan's attacks and to affirm believers' identity in Christ.

Duration: 12:51

Scripture: Matthew 4:4, Matthew 4:7, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 8:12, 1 Peter 1:23, 1 Peter 2:2, 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Condemnation"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of understanding and believing in the forgiveness and acceptance offered by God through Jesus Christ. He explains that God not only forgives our sins but also declares us righteous, justifying us through faith. The preacher uses the analogy of being accused of a crime and being forgiven by a judge, highlighting that God does not remember our sins and does not view us with shame or condemnation. He encourages believers to combat the attacks of Satan by using the weapon of God's word, which is compared to a seed that brings new life, milk that helps us grow, and a sword to fight against spiritual enemies.

Transcript

We want to think once again of a weapon that God has given us by which we can overcome our spiritual enemy. And that is the weapon of His Word. God's Word is like a seed that brings us to being born again, 1 Peter 1.23. We also saw in 1 Peter chapter 2, the early verses, of how God's Word is like milk that helps us to grow.

God's Word changes us. We also see in Ephesians and chapter 6, that God's Word is like a sword, the sword of the Spirit with which we can fight against Satan. Ephesians 6 and verse 17, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

It's a wonderful weapon God has given us to resist the attacks of Satan. Many believers are discouraged. Do you know why? Because they don't know how to use this sword when Satan comes attacking them with discouragement.

Many believers live under condemnation and feelings of guilt. Who gives it to them? Not God. Are you living with feelings of guilt and condemnation? Are you feeling uncertain whether God has accepted you?

Whether God loves you? Whether God has forgiven your sin? Whether God still remembers your past against you? These are the ways in which Satan harasses and harasses believers.

And believers are weighed down around the world with a guilt which they should not be bearing. How can they overcome Satan? How can you overcome Satan? Whatever feelings that come to draw you away from God, discouragement, condemnation, guilt feelings, every one of these can be overcome if you can take the Word of God as a weapon. For example, supposing you are not sure whether Jesus Christ has accepted you.

Supposing the devil comes to you and says, Oh, yes, you think Jesus has accepted you, but Jesus is far too holy to accept a sinner like you. What are you going to do when he tells you that? Are you going to argue with him? I tell you, you'll be defeated. You can never argue with Satan.

He's far too clever for you. You know when Satan tempted even Jesus Christ, saying to him, if you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread. Matthew 4, verse 3. He questioned, are you really the Son of God? And if he could put such a question to Jesus Christ himself, you think Satan will not try those questions with you? Of course he will.

He'll make you doubt whether you're a child of God. How can we overcome it? We need the Word of God. Here is a word which you could use.

John chapter 6, verse 37. Jesus said, the one who comes to me, I will certainly not cast out. When I was a young boy and I asked Jesus to come into my life, for many years, not days, not months, but years, I lived in doubt whether Christ had really accepted me.

And all those years in which I lived in doubt, I did not make any spiritual progress in my life. And it's probably like that with you. But a day came in my life, over 38 years ago, when I believed this word, and I could say to Satan, Jesus has accepted me, just as I am.

Because he said, the one who comes to me, I will never cast out. And I said, Lord Jesus, I have come to you. Today onwards, I believe that you have not cast me out.

And it was like dropping an anchor. I have never drifted from that position for 38 years. I want you to take that word and believe from today, that if you have come to Jesus, it doesn't matter if you are the greatest sinner in the world, if you have come to him, he says, I will certainly not cast you out.

There is a certainty about it. You don't have to believe the devil's lies anymore. Tell the devil, Jesus says, he has certainly accepted me.

Now, who are you going to believe from today onwards? Jesus or the devil? That's your choice. If you want to continue to believe the devil, then nobody can help you. But if you will believe the word of God, take up that sword, the devil will flee from you, and you will never have a doubt again for the rest of your life, that Christ has accepted you.

Now, some of you may have another problem. You may feel that there are certain sins that you committed in your past life, which were very, very bad, very serious. Maybe some of you have committed adultery or murder.

It could be horrible things. And you may feel, well, some of the less serious sins God has forgiven you, but some of those horrible, wicked things which nobody knows but you, does God always remember it when he thinks of you? Is it like that? You know how it is, supposing somebody has killed your son, and you are gracious enough to forgive him. Yet, every time you see him, you will remember, this is the man who killed my son.

Even if you have forgiven him. Does God look at us like that? That every time he sees us, he thinks of us as the one who did all those wicked things 20 years ago, or 10 years ago, or last week? What does the Bible say? The answer, again, is to know the word of God. Satan will come to you with all these torturing thoughts.

His aim is to keep you far away from God. You cannot overcome him with argument or psychology or any such thing. You've got to quote the word of God.

You know when Jesus was tempted by Satan, what he said? He only said, it is written. God's word says this. A second time, Satan came to him with another temptation, and Jesus said, God's word says this.

Satan came to him quoting a word of God. And Jesus said, but it also says in God's word this. Every single time in those three temptations in the wilderness, Jesus overcame Satan only by quoting scripture.

No discussion, no argument, nothing. Eve was the one who discussed and argued with Satan. And you know what happened to her? She fell.

Jesus never did that. He just quoted the word of God. And that's what you need to do too.

Here is a promise. Hebrews chapter 8 and verse 12. God says, I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

Here is a promise. Not only I will forgive your sins, that itself is wonderful, but I will not remember your sins anymore against you. That means when God looks at me, he does not hold against me any of the sins I have committed in the past, not the ones I committed 40 years ago, and not the ones I committed yesterday.

If I have confessed my sins, the Bible says, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. These are powerful weapons, these words of God, like swords.

We can say the Bible is like an armory with many swords. And you need to take out the appropriate one when the devil comes to you with one type of attack. When he reminds you that you have sinned so much in the past, you can say, well, the blood of Jesus has cleansed me from all sins.

Satan is a great accuser. He seeks to accuse and torment and harass believers, preventing them from being happy. And so many believers go around with long faces.

That is not God's will for you, my friend. You think God wants you to go around this world with a long face? How can you ever draw anyone else to Christ if you go around with a long face? How can you be happy? You cannot psychologically work up happiness. You must know that your sins are forgiven.

You've been accepted by Christ. And not only that, God will not remember your sins anymore. Now I want to lead you one step further.

It's not only that God forgives our sin. It's not only that He does not remember our sins anymore. There is a word called justified, used in Romans, that God has justified us.

In Romans 5 verse 1 it says, Having been justified by faith. Do you know what that word justified means? It means declared righteous. That means God has declared you to be a righteous person.

Now, let's use an illustration. Supposing I've been accused of a crime and I've been taken to court and the judge says, Okay, you are forgiven. I'm happy because I come out of the court forgiven but I still hang my head in shame because I'm accused of a terrible crime.

But on the other hand, if the judge says, Well, after considering all the evidence, I don't believe you're guilty at all. There's no need of being forgiven. You're righteous.

Go home righteous. Then I come out of the court not just as a forgiven criminal but as one with my head lifted up. This is the meaning of justification.

It is more than forgiveness. And many Christians haven't understood it. God not only forgives, He justifies.

He declares me righteous. In other words, He clothes me with the righteousness of Christ. He puts the goodness of Christ over me as my dress.

Can you think of it? The goodness of Christ clothing you. How do you look when you're clothed with the goodness of Christ? I'll tell you. Perfect.

Do you believe it? Oh, that's where the problem lies. You don't believe it. Then it'll never be true.

It says justified by faith. Do you believe? If God puts the goodness of Christ over you, thank Him for it. And resist Satan with this weapon of the word of God.

Say, I have been accepted by Christ. Say it right now. I've been accepted.

I've been forgiven. God does not remember my past against me anymore. I have been justified.

I'm a righteous person clothed with the goodness of Christ over my life. I'm just as precious to God as Jesus Himself is. These are the weapons with which Satan will flee from us.

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