



Bible Study Lesson Series – “The Law of the Spirit of Life”

November 5 - 2025



“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

Fruit of the Spirit

- **Fruit as in Galatians 5**
- **Governance of the “Soul & Flesh”**
- **Lifestyle of conformity to the Word of God**

the Holy Spirit and our “Spiritual Conduct”!



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Galatians 5: 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.** Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

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- Paul uses the grammar of comparison to describe the “Fruit of the Spirit” by identifying what it “is not”! He categorically lists a number (not necessarily all) of sins that counter the Fruit, or spiritual conduct produced by the Holy Spirit.
- *“the works of the Flesh are evident”* - Categories
 1. Sins of Defilement (1 Corinthians 6:13-20)
 - adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
 2. Sins of Rebellion (1 Samuel 15:23)
 - idolatry, sorcery
 3. Sins of Division (James 3:14-16)
 - hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries

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- 1. Love:** (agape): A willful, unconditional, and selfless choice to put the interests of others above one's own.
- 2. Joy:** (chara) An inner sense of gladness and contentment, regardless of circumstances.
- 3. Peace:** (eirene) A deep sense of calm and harmony, both with God and with others.
- 4. Patience:** (macrothymia) The ability to endure difficult circumstances or slow progress without becoming angry or frustrated.
- 5. Kindness:** (chrestotes) Showing genuine care, compassion, and generosity through thoughtful and helpful actions.
- 6. Goodness:** (agathosune) Living a virtuous and upright life that reflects God's moral character.
- 7. Faithfulness:** (pistis) Having Faith, Being trustworthy, loyal, and steadfast in one's commitment.
- 8. Gentleness:** (prautes) A humble and tender approach to others, characterized by meekness and restraint.
- 9. Self-control:** (egkrateia) The ability to moderate one's desires and actions, demonstrating temperance.

Note: 9-Gifts + 9-Fruit

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- The Fruit are not virtues given to us by the Holy Spirit, but are fruit borne by the Holy Spirit in us
- None of this is “Automatic”!
- The Fruit of the Spirit are not free “Gifts” imparted into us, but are moral virtues that are “produced”, oftentimes through struggle, pain, our own resistance, ignorance, etc.
- IE; they don’t just magically happen but transition through the process of no fruit, fruit, more fruit, much fruit

John 15:1 *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does **not bear fruit** He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear **more fruit**. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears **much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.*

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

Fruit of the Spirit

the Holy Spirit and our “Spiritual Conduct”!

- The “Quality” of the Fruit produced by the Holy Spirit in our lives manifests through our character and behaviors
- For many, the Holy Spirit spends lifetimes battling through character issues in attempting to produce the quality of fruit that is useful to the Kingdom
- Struggles like whether our conduct issues from weakness of flesh, unrenewed minds, stubborn hearts or from the leading of the Spirit.
- Is our conduct an acting or portrayal of doctrine or is it a spiritual reality empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - (ie; doing it because the bible says so and not because we are sincere and mean it from our hearts)
- Conduct that is real versus learned behaviors
 - programmed by influence from others
 - Driven by personal gain or favor
- Discerning ourselves as well as discerning others
- These works originate from the self and do not produce spiritual overcoming life;
- We must learn to live in the Spirit. Otherwise, we may accomplish many “good” works without touching any spiritual reality at all. What does it mean to live in the Spirit? It means that we do not do things without the help of the Holy Spirit.

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

Life Giving Spirit

the unseen Realm of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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Life Giving Spirit

the Realm of the Holy Spirit

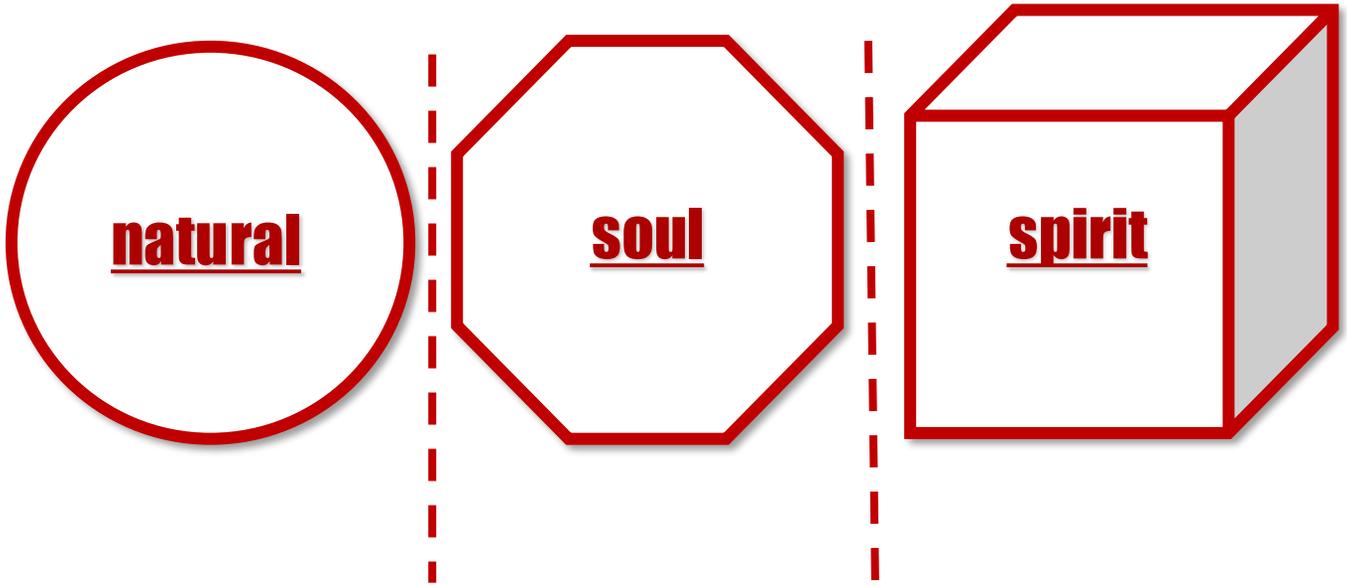
- Only what is in the Holy Spirit is real spiritually, because all spiritual things are nurtured by the Spirit.
- Once something is outside the Spirit, it turns into letters, forms, and doctrine, which are dead.
- Spiritual things are real, living, and full of life only when they are in the Holy Spirit.
- Just as no one can ever perceive spiritual things with his eyes fixed on the material world, similarly, no one can ever think through to the spiritual realm with his brain.
- There is something that the Bible calls "truth." It is nothing other than reality. In relating to this truth-this reality-one is delivered from doctrines, letters, human thoughts, and human ways
- How the Holy Spirit helps us to comprehend that which we cannot see with the naked eyes, brain comprehension, human life experience
- Superimposed realities we refer to as the “Supernatural”
- God, Angels, Demons, the dead, unseen worlds, (whatever else)
- There are those who communicate with the spirit realm “illegally” (witchcraft, astrology, medium/necromancy, etc.)
- The only legal means of communication with the spirit realm for the believer is through the Holy Spirit!

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

Why it is so important

- For Humanity, Warfare occurs **within** and **across** three primary “Realms”!
- We need a better understanding of “Realms”!



- **natural** - Am I battling sickness, disease, hunger, poverty
- **soul** - Am I battling hatred, jealousy, envy, pride, lust, depression, anxiety, unforgiveness, slothfulness, etc.
- **spirit** – Am I battling satanic forces of darkness and human accomplices (witchcraft, sorcery, astrology, necromancy, medium, etc.
- In many cases it is a **combination** of the three!
- **Victory** requires a knowledge and understanding of the Laws and strategies that dominate each realm of existential reality.



“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

natural

Controls-Constraints-Restrictions

Level - 1

- Time
- Space
- Matter

Level – 2

- Natural Laws of Universe consist of derivatives of (time, space, matter understood through math, physics, chemistry, thermodynamics, astronomy, geology, etc.

Level -3

- Natural Systems (Seasons, atmospheric/weather, environment, etc.

Level – 4

- Life Systems (Plant, Marine, Animal)
- **Human (physical body)**



“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

soul

Controls-Constraints-Restrictions

- **Unseen Realm of mankind**
 - Heart – Core or center of human being (Prov. 4:20, Matt 12:35)
 - Will (sovereign ability of choice granted by God)
 - Place of Love, Faith, Obedience, Joy, Hope
 - Mind (Rom. 8:5-9, 12:1-2)
 - Reason/thought
 - Intellect
 - Creativity
 - Emotions
 - Hurt, anger, anxiety, etc.



“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

spirit

Controls-Constraints-Restrictions

- God the Holy Spirit
 - Revelation, truth, unconditional love, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, etc.
- Angels
- Satan/Demons
- Human



“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE REALLY OBEYING GOD?

- Those who have their eyes opened to the opposing forces of the spiritual realm, understand that very few believers can guarantee that they are obeying God , and God only, in direct supernatural guidance , because there are so many factors liable to intervene, such as the believer's own mind, own emotions, own spirit, own will, and the deceptive intrusion of the powers of darkness.
- Since evil spirits can counterfeit God as Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, the believer needs also to know very clearly the principles upon how God works, so we can detect between the Divine, the Satanic, and human workings.
- There is a "discernment" which is a spiritual gift, enabling the believer to discern "spirits," but this also requires knowledge of "doctrine" (1 John 4: 1), so as to discern between doctrine which is of God, and doctrines, or teachings, of evil spirits and or evil human beings.
- There is a detecting or test, by the gift of discerning of spirits, which spirit is at work; and a test of spirits, which is doctrinal. In the former a believer can tell by a spirit of discernment, that the lying spirits are at work in a meeting, or in a person, but he may not have the understanding needed for testing the "doctrines" set forth by a teacher. (This is why pastors train hard to have both!)

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE REALLY OBEYING GOD?

- We need knowledge in both cases; knowledge to read our spirit man with assurance in the face of all contrary appearances, that the supernatural workings are "of God"; and knowledge to detect the subtlety of "teachings" bearing certain infallible indications that they emanate from the pit, while appearing to be from God. (ie; the “gray line” between truth and error!)
- In personal obedience to God, the believer can detect whether he is obeying God in some "command," by judging its fruits, and by knowledge of the character of God, such as the truth that (1) God has always a purpose in His commands, and (2) He will give no command out of harmony with His character and Word.

COOPERATION WITH GOD DOES NOT MEAN AUTOMATIC WORKING!

- The principle of cooperation with God, and not passive control by Him, must be fully understood, not only as the basis of deliverance from deception and possession, but also as the basis for the warfare.
 - We cannot substitute “passivity” for “patience”
 - Passivity is when we do not seek the will of God through Prayer, Word, Unction of Holy Spirit
 - Patience is a discipline of the Holy Spirit enabling us to walk in “timing” or cooperation going into action with the plan of God

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

THE BELIEVER MUST MAINTAIN POWER OVER DECEPTION!

- Few of us go through a crisis in life without deception by the enemy in more or less degree! (there is always a deception sometimes small, sometimes great! – 1 Timothy 2:13-14 Eve was **deceived**, Adam was **disobedient**) – Deception is the #1 Tool of the Devil!
- Only those who understand the realities in which they are dealing with can be victorious and not become a victim to the subtle workings of evil supernatural powers.
 - There are always “**Victors!**” and “**Victims!**”
- Many believers do not grow in our experiences with God, and through weakness of our flesh or deception to evil spirits, descend into a pit
 - This ultimately leads to depth of darkness, bondage, and misery, until we are “**undeceived**” and return to walking in the knowledge of truth.
- Jesus is essentially saying in John 8:32 “It is the truth that you know and walk in which ”keeps” you free!
- Those who do not discover the deceptions, sink into deeper deception, and become practically useless to God and to the Church. This is why so many are useless in the church today when it comes to spiritual warfare, intercessory prayer, evangelism of lost souls.

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DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

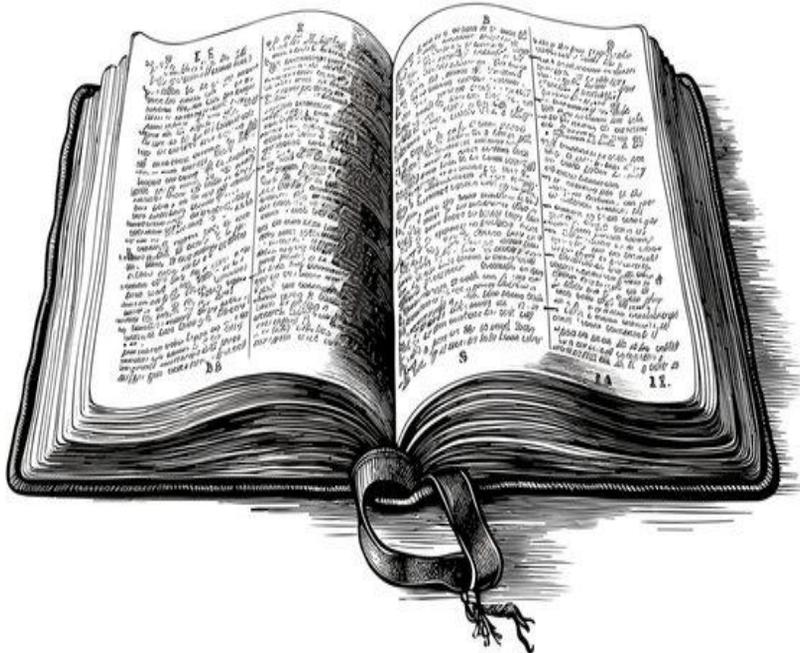
DEGREES OF DELIVERANCE AND VICTORY

- The believer needs to have thorough knowledge and understanding of their ways and works, and of the laws of the Spirit, and how to be led by the Spirit in all the REALMS of life.
- As there are (1) degrees of deception, and degrees of possession and deliverance from possession; so there are (2) degrees of victory over the devil; (3) degrees of temptation, and victory over temptation.
 - Acts 8:9-24
 - The people of Samaria are **deceived** by Simon the Sorcerer to a great degree
 - Simon is possessed by satanic control and operates in great deceptive power
 - Phillip easily brings deliverance to the people but Simon is a more difficult process, **astonishment then threat!**
- The power to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the wielding of Christ's authority will also be in degrees, and gained according to the aggressive spiritual strength obtained by overcoming the devil in his various workings against us;
- We must be aggressive in our pursuit of truth, aggressive in our pursuit of holiness, aggressive in our pursuit of faith, aggressive in our pursuit of hope, aggressive in our pursuit of Love!



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"The Law of the Spirit of Life"

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "TEMPTATION" AND "ATTACKS."

- There is also a difference between the "**temptations**" and "**attacks**" of the Tempter, as may again be seen in the life of Christ. "Temptation" is a scheme or a plot, or compulsion on the part of the Tempter to cause another to do evil, either consciously or unconsciously;
- Understand that an attack is an onslaught on the person, either in life, character, or circumstances,
 - For example, the devil made an (**attack**) onslaught on the Lord through the villagers, when they sought to hurl Him over the brow of the hill (Luke 4: 29); when His family brought a charge of insanity against Him (Mark 3: 21); and when He was charged with demon possession by His enemies (John 10: 20; Matt. 12: 24).
 - The danger we face from evil spirits is not cognitive but primal. The demons are thinkers! They know who God is, and they tremble before that truth, but they also know our weaknesses.

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

ATTACKS against Christ

Luke 4:28 *And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.*

- A physical attack with intent to maim or kill

Mark 3:20 *And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. 22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.*

- An attack on the core character and person of Jesus
 - Family and friends called him crazy
 - Scribes declaring that he has a demon in him

John 10:17 *“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” 19 Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. 20 And many of them said, “He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”*

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “TEMPTATION”, “ATTACKS” and “TESTING”

- We must always consider the “source” of a trial!
- The goal of satanic tempting is evil; the goal of God’s testing is “that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”
 - *James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the **testing** of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*
 - The purpose of “**Testing**” is to build “spiritual maturity”
- James warns us not to confuse evil temptation with God’s action (testing). That seems kind of hard to do, though, since the Scripture clearly tells us Jesus was “led” into the wilderness by the Spirit “to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1).
- Is God leading Jesus into temptation? Isn’t that precisely what Jesus taught us to pray against: “Lead us not into temptation”?
- **UNDERSTANDING**
 - It is the same experience
 - God is showing “**Jesus the mortal**” he has dominion over the works of the devil
 - Satan delivers his three best shots at the **Son of God**

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

TEMPTATION of Christ

Matthew 4:1 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” 7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ” 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, 2“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

v.3 Flesh will always seek a shortcut to glory, v.6 do not force the hand of God, v.9 the real motive “Lets change places!”

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

The “COMPLEXITY” of Trials/Tests and Temptations!

Matthew 4:1-11

- Jesus **surrenders** to the test but not the temptation!
 - *James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
- **4:1** Then **Jesus was led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
 - This is “Submission” and “Obedience” to God to endure temptation
 - *James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life*
- **4:2** And when He had **fasted forty days and forty nights**, afterward He was **hungry**.
- *This is a natural thing. (spirit is willing but the flesh is weak)*
- **4:3** Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, **“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”**
- Not a question of identity for he knows precisely who Jesus is, but temptation in the sense of “daring” him to do it!
 - How often is our flesh attacked “I dare you to try it”!
 - Jesus the “Son” is spirit so the dare is directed at the “flesh” which resides as the mortal man

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

The “COMPLEXITY” of Trials/Tests and Tempatations!

Matthew 4:1-11

- 4:4 *But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’*
- 4:5 *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,*
- 4:6 *and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and,*
- *‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”*
- 4:7 *Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ”*

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DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

The “COMPLEXITY” of Trials/Tests and Temptations!

Matthew 4:1-11

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

The “Supernatural” nature of Trials/Tests and Temptations!

It has been generally held, that the biblical interpretation of our Lord's temptation is to be understood as a narrative of outward transactions: that the devil tempted Christ in person, appeared to him in a visible form, spoke to him with an audible voice, and removed him corporeally from one place to another:

Temptation#1

Wilderness:
(Desert)

Led by the Spirit
to this place

Turn these
stones into
Bread

Temptation#2

Jerusalem:
transported to
the top of the
temple

Jump off of the
steeple

Temptation #3

High Mountain:
transported to the
top of the
mountain

Bow down and
worship me (the
devil)

“The Law of the Spirit of Life”

DISCERNING the Nature of your Warfare

TEMPTATION of Eve

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, **hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, **neither shall ye touch it**, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die**: 5 for **God doth know** that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, **she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

- But here she was, being interrogated by a “beast of the field” that questioned God’s commands and prerogatives. Without even a word, the serpent led the woman to act as though he had dominion over her instead of the other way around.