



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Series: Tempted with 'If' | Sermon 2

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 7/26/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: When Doubt Knocks at the Door

Devotional: Have you ever had a thought creep in that made you question everything? Maybe it sounded like, "If God really loved you, He wouldn't let this happen." That single word, "if," carries more weight than we often realize. It doesn't take much. Just a small seed of uncertainty, and before long, we're questioning God's love, our faith, and our own identity. Satan used this exact tactic on Jesus. He didn't come with an obvious lie. He came with a subtle twist, a whisper designed to make Jesus question who He was and whether God could be trusted. And if Satan was bold enough to try that with Jesus, He will certainly try it with us. Here's the good news. Doubt doesn't have to win. When we recognize where these thoughts are coming from, we can reject them for what they are: lies designed to pull us off course. You are loved. You are not disqualified. And God has not forgotten you. The first step is simply awareness. When a thought causes you to question God's goodness or your worth in His eyes, pause. Ask yourself where that thought is really coming from. That moment of awareness can change everything.

Bible Verse: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." - Isaiah 26:3

Reflection Question: What recurring thought or "what if" has been quietly pulling you away from trusting God, and where do you think it's really coming from?

Quote: "That little bit of doubt, just like a lawyer in a case, you just try to put a little doubt in that jury to get them swung his way. Doesn't take a bunch, just a little bit. Something about a doubt, just a little pinch, begin to grow. Before long, we begin to doubt who we are, begin to doubt God."

Prayer: Lord, help me recognize the lies that try to take root in my mind and replace them with Your truth. Keep my mind stayed on You today. Amen.

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850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



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Day 2: The Word That Holds You Steady

Devotional: When Jesus was tempted, He didn't debate Satan or try to reason His way through it. He went straight to Scripture. Every single time, His response was grounded in the Word of God. That wasn't a coincidence. It was a strategy, and it's one we're invited to follow. Think about it this way. When a storm hits, you want to be standing on something solid. The Word of God is that solid ground. But here's the thing: you can't stand on something you've never picked up. Scripture has to be in your heart before the moment of temptation arrives, not just on a shelf somewhere. Life gets busy. It's easy to let a daily habit of reading and reflecting on Scripture slide. But those quiet moments with God are what build the foundation that holds when everything else shakes. A daily dose of the Word isn't just a religious routine. It's preparation for the real battles ahead. You don't have to memorize entire chapters overnight. Start small. One verse. One passage. Let it sit with you throughout the day. Over time, those words become the very thing you reach for when doubt, fear, or temptation shows up at your door.

Bible Verse: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Reflection Question: If temptation showed up in your life today, how confident are you that you have enough of God's Word in your heart to stand firm against it?

Quote: "Satan tempted Jesus. He'll certainly tempt us. But Jesus Christ countered Satan with The Word of God. And that's why we got to keep a daily dose of the Word of God in our heart."

Prayer: Father, give me a hunger for Your Word and the discipline to stay in it daily. Let Scripture be the foundation I stand on when life gets hard. Amen.

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Day 3: Protected, Not Exempt

Devotional: One of the most misunderstood ideas in the Christian life is what God's protection actually looks like. We sometimes read Psalm 91 and expect it to mean that nothing painful will ever touch us. But that's not the promise. John the Baptist was beheaded. The apostle James was killed by the sword. Faithful missionaries throughout history gave everything. And yet, every one of them fulfilled the purpose God had for them. God's protection is not a guarantee that life will be easy. It's a promise that He is present in all of it. His ways are higher than our ways. There will be seasons we don't understand, moments that don't make sense, and questions that won't get answered this side of eternity. That's where trust comes in. Trust is not the absence of questions. It's choosing to believe that God is still good even when you can't see the full picture. David served his own generation by the will of God. That was enough. He didn't need to understand every detail of the plan. He just needed to be faithful to the part God gave Him. You are here on purpose. And God is able to protect that purpose until it is fully complete.

Bible Verse: "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust." - Psalm 91:1-2

Reflection Question: Is there a situation in your life right now where you're struggling to trust God's plan because you can't see how it's going to work out?

Quote: "His ways are higher than our ways. We won't understand it. We won't figure it all out. When we stand before God, if He sees fit, we may know it then. But we just have to trust God that He had accomplished His day."

Prayer: God, I choose to trust You even when I don't understand. Remind me today that Your presence is my protection and Your plan is always good. Amen.

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Day 4: Living for an Audience of One

Devotional: There's a temptation that doesn't always look like temptation. It's the pull to take something God is doing in your life and make it about you. Satan tried this with Jesus. He took Him to the highest point of the temple and essentially said, "Jump. Let everyone see God catch you." It looked spiritual on the surface. But it was really an invitation to perform. Jesus didn't take the bait. He wasn't interested in impressing the crowd. He came to do the will of the Father, nothing more and nothing less. That kind of focus is rare, and it's something we all need to cultivate. When we start chasing applause, even in ministry or in our faith, we drift from the purpose God actually has for us. The question shifts from "What does God want?" to "What will people think?" And that shift, subtle as it is, can take us far off course. Living for an audience of one means making decisions based on what honors God, not what earns recognition. It means pressing in daily, staying close to Him, and letting His approval be enough. That kind of life is freeing. You stop performing and start living with real purpose.

Bible Verse: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." - Isaiah 55:8-9

Reflection Question: In what area of your life are you most tempted to perform for others rather than simply obey God?

Quote: "We still got to live for an audience of one. And that's God Almighty. The audience of one God Almighty. And we can stay on track that way."

Prayer: Lord, help me live for Your approval alone. Quiet the noise of other voices and keep my eyes fixed on You and Your purpose for my life. Amen.





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Day 5: Get Up and Go Again

Devotional: Nobody makes it through life without getting knocked down. Not you, not the people you admire most, not even the heroes of Scripture. David was anointed king as a young man and then spent years running for his life. He made serious mistakes. He faced grief, betrayal, and failure. And yet, Acts 13:36 says he served his own generation by the will of God. He fulfilled his purpose. That's the kind of life worth aiming for. Not a perfect life, but a faithful one. The people who inspire us most aren't the ones who never struggled. They're the ones who got knocked to their knees and got back up anyway. Satan wants you to believe that your failures disqualify you. He'll whisper that God doesn't love you, that you've gone too far, that your cry won't be heard. Those are lies. Every single one of them. God's grace is bigger than your worst day, and His plan for your life is still intact. Draw near to God today. Not because you have it all together, but because He's waiting and He will meet you right where you are. Press in. Don't drift. Your purpose is still ahead of you, and it's worth getting back up for.

Bible Verse: "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with His fathers." - Acts 13:36

Reflection Question: What failure or fear has been convincing you that your best days are behind you, and what would it look like to get back up and trust God with what's still ahead?

Quote: "The people that I admire the most is people that's been knocked down to the knees. They just got up and went again. It's not the people that made it through life without any kind of issue. It's the ones that had issues. And they got up and they went again."

Prayer: Father, thank You that Your grace is greater than my failures. Give me the courage to get back up, press in, and trust that my purpose in You is not finished. Amen.

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