



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Tempted with 'If'

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 7/12/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: When 'If' Becomes a Weapon

Devotional: Have you ever noticed that doubt rarely shows up as a bold, outright lie? It usually sneaks in as a quiet question. If God is so good, why is this happening to you? If you were really saved, would you feel this way? That single word, 'if,' is one of Satan's most effective tools, and he has been using it for a long time. After Jesus was baptized, with the Father speaking from heaven and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, He was led directly into the wilderness. No celebration. No rest. Just a barren, desolate stretch of time with no food, no community, and no visible provision. And right in the middle of that exhaustion, Satan showed up with his favorite word. Here is what is so encouraging about this moment. Jesus did not panic. He did not argue or try to out-debate the enemy. He simply responded with the Word of God. That is the blueprint. When doubt comes knocking, you do not have to have all the answers. You just need to know what God has already said. Satan's questions are designed to make you forget what God has already declared over your life. But the truth does not change based on how you feel in a hard season. God is still good. You are still His. And His Word is still the most powerful thing you can speak into a moment of doubt.

Bible Verse: "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.'" - Matthew 4:4

Reflection Question: When doubt or discouragement creeps in, what is your first instinct: to argue with the feeling, to give in to it, or to reach for what God has already said?

Quote: "Jesus did not argue or engage in some sort of debate with Satan, but rather He directly responded with the word of God. So when Satan comes knocking at our heart's door, whenever he's trying to get in our head and get us into that stinking thinking, trying to get us all down and out about the circumstance we are, hit him with the word of God."

Prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word as a weapon against doubt and fear. When the enemy comes with his questions, help us to respond with Your truth. Amen.

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Day 2: He Knows When You Are Tired

Devotional: There is a reason Satan did not show up at the beginning of Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness. He waited. He waited until Jesus was physically exhausted, mentally worn down, and completely alone. Then he struck. That is not a coincidence. It is a strategy. And if you have ever noticed that your hardest moments of doubt seem to come when you are already running on empty, you are not imagining it. Weariness has a way of making everything feel bigger, heavier, and more permanent than it actually is. The good news is that Jesus understands this from personal experience. He was not shielded from exhaustion or hunger or the weight of a long, hard season. He walked through it. That means when you bring your tired, worn-down self to Him, you are not bringing it to someone who does not understand. You are bringing it to a High Priest who has been there. You do not have to have it all together to come to Him. You do not have to feel strong to stand firm. On your most depleted days, His grace is still enough, and His Word is still true. Rest in that today.

Bible Verse: "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." - Hebrews 4:14

Reflection Question: Think about a time when you were most vulnerable to doubt or discouragement. What does it mean to you that Jesus faced that same kind of weariness and still stood firm?

Quote: "Those ifs get even heavier. When we're stressed and we're weary, as again, as Jesus is at this time, almost six weeks without eating, He is weary. And I don't know about you, but at our house we say everything's worse. When you're tired, when you're weary, everything is worse and everything is multiplied."

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for understanding what it feels like to be tired and tested. On the days when I have nothing left, remind me that You are enough. Amen.





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Day 3: God Does Not Forget You in the Wilderness

Devotional: Wilderness seasons have a way of making us feel forgotten. When life stalls out and nothing seems to be moving forward, it is easy to wonder if God has lost track of you. But the story of Israel in the desert tells a very different story. For 40 years, God provided manna six days a week. He brought water from a rock. He kept their clothes from wearing out and their feet from swelling. Millions of people, sustained in a barren place, not because they had it all together, but because God is faithful. That is not just a children's Bible story. It is a reference point for your life right now. If God provided for an entire nation in the wilderness for four decades, He can provide for you in your current season. The wilderness is not where God abandons you. It is often where He does some of His most significant work in you. Moses spent 40 years in the desert thinking his best days were behind him. They were not. God was preparing Him for the greatest chapter of His life. Your wilderness is not wasted time. Something is being built in you right now, even if you cannot see it yet.

Bible Verse: "And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." - Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Reflection Question: Looking back at a difficult or stagnant season in your life, can you identify something God was building in you during that time that you could not see while you were in it?

Quote: "Wilderness is not a waste of time because God was preparing Him for that ministry that He would begin. There is a message. There is something that God wants to work in our very soul."

Prayer: Father, help me to trust You in the seasons that feel barren and unproductive. Remind me that You are at work even when I cannot see it. Amen.

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Day 4: Nothing Can Take You Out of His Hands

Devotional: Satan is persistent. When he cannot shake your confidence in God's provision, He will try a different angle. He will drag up your past. Every failure, every regret, every moment you are not proud of. He will blow it up, make it feel bigger than it was, and whisper that it disqualifies you from God's love and grace. But here is the truth that silences that lie completely. If you have asked for forgiveness, God has cleansed it. He has placed it in a sea of forgetfulness, and He is not fishing it back out. The sin is gone. And not only that, but right now, at this very moment, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you. Romans 8 does not leave any room for doubt on this. Nothing in all of creation, not death, not life, not your past, not your failures, not things present or things to come, can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. That is not a conditional promise. It is an absolute one. You are not disqualified. You are not forgotten. You are held by a love that nothing can break.

Bible Verse: "For I am persuaded 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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:38-39

Reflection Question: Is there a past failure or regret that Satan has been using to make you feel disqualified from God's love or purpose? How does the truth of Romans 8 speak directly to that?

Quote: "Satan will drag up everything that you have ever done and he will put it in your mind. He will remind you of it. He will blow it up where it is bigger than it actually was. We have to remind himself that God put this in the sea of forgetfulness and He says, no more fishing over here."

Prayer: Lord, thank You that Your love is not based on my performance. Help me to receive the forgiveness You have already given and to stop letting the enemy use my past against me. Amen.

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Day 5: Trust the One Who Has Always Come Through

Devotional: Worry has a way of stealing today. You can lose the joy of the present moment by living in the anxiety of what might happen tomorrow. Satan loves to use 'what if' just as much as he loves to use 'if.' What if it does not work out? What if God does not come through this time? But look at the track record. God provided for Israel for 40 years without missing a single day. He has brought you through every hard season you have faced so far. He gave His own Son for you. If He did not withhold that, what would He possibly withhold from you now? The call is simple: seek His kingdom first. Trust that the God who has always been faithful is still faithful today. And when the enemy tries to get you to sit still in fear and doubt, do the opposite. Worship. Give. Encourage someone. Take a step of faith. Satan cannot stand in the presence of genuine praise, and a heart that is actively trusting God is a heart that is hard to discourage. You have made it this far because He has carried you this far. He is not stopping now.

Bible Verse: "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." - Matthew 6:31-33

Reflection Question: What is one area of your life right now where you are struggling to trust God's provision, and what would it look like to actively seek His kingdom first in that area?

Quote: "God has brought me this far. You know what Satan will do? He'll cause us to doubt. Well, God did it last week. Is he going to do it this week? God provided me in so many ways last year. Will he do it again? Yes. He's faithful for 40 years."

Prayer: Father, You have been faithful every single time. Help me to stop borrowing tomorrow's worry and to trust You fully with what I am facing today. Amen.

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