



SPIRIT-FILLED MEN BATTLE SATAN

Pastor Mark Driscoll

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Ah, the devil got a nine one one call that a bunch of men got together and we're planning on making a difference. Amen. Welcome to Real Men. How many of you guys are glad to be here for God's Night Out? Amen. So good to have you. And you knew guys, you made a great decision to be in the best place with the best guys and God's got something significant for you and for your life and your legacy. We're here to build men up to bless women and children. And what we say is we're not here to beat you down. We're here to build you up. Guys, we truly are. And I love you. I look forward to this night. For those who are in the room, the guys who lead the tables, they have been praying for you, they're available for you. They're here to put an arm around you and to help you. And I just wanna say two things before I jump in. How many of you're the older guys like me, you older guys, I wanna thank you for being here with a father's heart. You're here to help pull up the young guy in the next generation. I was in the back last week. Dozens of young men came along and told me my table lead is an older man. I feel like I finally got a dad. He called me, he texted me. He's encouraging me. He's helping me figure out how to get a job, how to launch, how to read my Bible, and how to not marry a gal that is Satan's ex-wife. And so, uh, thank you older men for putting, uh, an arm around the younger men and for you younger men. How many of you guys are the younger guys? Let's just give an applause and a welcome to all the young men. We love you, we honor you, we're excited for you, and we're here because you matter. Amen. So I'm doing a little sermon series on spirit-filled men and today we're gonna deal with spirit-filled men. Fight temptation. Uh, how many of you guys struggle with temptation? Right? There's only two kind of guys who don't struggle with temptation. Dead men and liars. Everyone else struggles with temptation. And you'll find this in the book. Spirit Filled. Jesus, if you're online, you can scan the QR code. I'll give you a free copy. If you're one of the dudes in the room, free copy, pick it up on your way out. It's a gift for me 'cause I love you. So here's what we're gonna deal with. We're gonna deal with temptation. And every man has got his thing, the thing that for him is difficult to overcome. And if he's not careful, it overcomes him. And here's the reason why. And God built our body for pleasure. And I'm, I'm telling you this, I'm not against pleasure, pleasure just needs to be controlled by you. It can't control you. And so you need to be the master of your pleasure. Your pleasure can't be the master of you. But the way that God hardwired your brain, you have a, a region in your brain called the ventral pum. It's a center for pleasure and pain, literally in a very small part of your brain. All of the pleasure and pain that comes usually from your nerve endings and also through what you see with your eyes, in touch with your hands, or also taste with your mouth. It goes to this center. And this center literally determines this, this pleasure or pain. If it's pain, it causes you to avoid it. And if it's pleasure, it causes you to pursue it. This is why men as a general rule, unless they're conscious and intentional, we run toward pleasure. We run away from pain. Lemme tell you this, you can't be a fully functioning masculine adult unless you learn to run away from some pleasure and run towards some pain. Can I give an amen? Amen. If you're a guy that I do pleasure, not pain, you can't do being a man if you're gonna be a man, you've gotta learn sometimes to run away from the pleasure and run toward the pain so that you can mature and be a man. And in those moments, choosing between pleasure and pain, those are the intersections for temptations. What happens is when the pleasure center in the body is triggered again through something you see, something you touch, something you taste, your brain releases a little chemical called dopamine, and dopamine is very pleasurable and addictive. Sometimes your body gives you a very short dose or hit. This is what happens when you're scrolling on social media or your phone, uh, that white light, that blue light, what it does, it triggers a sensory of a little bit of pleasure. This is why people get addicted to screens because it's a little bit of pleasure, a little bit of pleasure, a little bit of pleasure, and all of a sudden they're just living for that dopamine hit. Certain dopamine hits are really big drugs, alcohol and women. And if you put 'em together, uh, that's the cuts in line to hell. So, uh, so that's the particular temptation. Now that being said, how many of you men have four a season? At least you struggled because there was something you enjoyed so much, you didn't control it, it controlled you. This is how we get the addiction cycle. How many of you guys are my recovery guys? Raise your hand. Love you. Can we cheer for them and thank them for being here and honor them? So what happens in the addiction cycle is this, you get pleasure, but then to continue getting pleasure in that center of your brain and the dopamine hit true or false, you need to increase the dosage to maintain the pleasure. So all of a sudden one drink and you're feeling pretty

good. Next thing you know, one drink, you don't feel anything, you need two drinks. You feel pretty good. Now all of a sudden two drinks doesn't work and then it's three drinks. And next thing you know, you're drinking for breakfast. Now you're an addict. And what happens is the beginning of pleasure becomes the end of self-control. And this is why what the devil will do, he will tempt you with a little bit of pleasure to get you into a place where you become addicted to the pleasure. And then that temptation is not something that you control, but it's something that overcomes and controls you. The way to battle temptation as a man is the fruit of the spirit we looked at last week in Galatians five. One of the fruit of the spirit is self control. You can't be a man if you don't have self-control and you can't have self-control unless you're controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is why you don't want a substance to control you. You want the spirit of God to control you so you can control the substances you consume. And so part of the fruit of the spirit is self-control. And for you younger men, you need to know that we live in a world that is custom hardwired to destroy you, to get you addicted to pleasure and living for dopamine hits. There's an entire generation that literally are dopamine addicts. Now that being said, for all of you men, I want you to know this, most of entertainment, business and culture is created to give you pleasure, to give you that dopamine hit and to take your money in exchange for bondage. This is pornography, alcohol, uh, this is gambling. Um, this is certain I will call them black widow women. Certain black widow women, uh, they will give you a little bit of pleasure so they can control you and destroy you. True or false? True. Hear me, younger men, there's gonna be some gal that comes into your life and she's gonna be a strong temptation. You'll think, well, she's crazy in bed. Take it from the older guys. She's just crazy all the time. Okay? And crazy in bed is one thing, but crazy at Costco with three kids is a whole nother thing. Thing, all right? And so you've gotta have some self-control. And if you live for pleasure, eventually you will not be living for God. I'll say it again. If you live for pleasure, you will not be living for God. And so what you wanna do is not say that pleasure is bad, but it needs to be mastered by you and directed by you. So true or false, if you're married and you have sex with your wife, uh, it feels good. True. And unless you're really bad at it, it's enjoyable, right? And, and don't Google, but just pray about, maybe figure it out what that struggle is. So, so, so what happens is if you have sex with your wife and you get a dopamine hit and you have this biochemical reaction and all of your body is saying, Hey, we like that, let's do that again. What that can do is that can bond you to your wife. The two become one flesh. If you take that desire and point it toward anyone or anything else, now you are bonding with someone or something else other than your spouse. And that'll break the bond with your spouse. So God created our brains to pursue him, to worship and to enjoy that dopamine hidden in the brain when we're in the presence of God, uh, to be a man who repents and praise and senses the freedom and deliverance in the Holy Spirit. And there's joy that overcomes us to enjoy our wife to eat, but not eat as gluttons and to drink, but to not drink as drunkards and instead to pursue God and enjoy pleasure, not pursue pleasure instead of God. And so what happens men is this becomes very practical when the temptation in your life arises and you're in the fight. And when you're in the fight, how do you invite the Holy Spirit so that you can practice self-control and you can have victory over your temptation, and then you're not enslaved by someone or something that starts to be pleasure, but ends by bringing pain. That being said, we're gonna look at Jesus Christ. Lemme read this scripture to you from Hebrews four. We do not have a high priest. That's Jesus who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses. How many of you, when you're tempted, you feel weak? How many of feel like I'm strong until I'm presented with this opportunity and then I feel weak? And let's not judge each other. For some it's sex drugs, you know, some it's women, some it's pornography, some it's gambling, some it's anger. Whatever your thing is, some of it's nicotine. But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin. So two things I want you to know. Was Jesus tempted yes or no? Yes. Yes. Did Jesus sin? No. We'll talk about that. Let us then with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. Here's what he's saying, man, when you're tempted, get to Jesus and think of Jesus and invite Jesus and follow Jesus. What's really interesting for us Christian men, our God became a man. So he knows exactly what it's like for us as men. That's very unique. And it says that Jesus was tempted as we are yet without sin. Two things I want you to know here. Number one, Jesus was tempted but he didn't sin. You know what that means? It's not a sin to be tempted. This is gonna be a moment of deliverance for some of you men, some of you men, as soon as

you feel tempted, you automatically feel defeated. I, I can't believe I'm struggling with this. I can't believe I'm thinking about this. I can't believe, I can't believe that I'm, I'm looking at this or desiring this or longing for this or drawn toward this. I can't believe it. Well, you're not losing. This is where the fight begins as some of you guys, you've wrongly been lied to and the enemy has whispered in ear and said, if you're tempted, you've already sinned. You may as well go through. It's kinda like you've already run the intersection. May as well just go through to the other side. If Jesus was tempted and never sinned, don't believe the lie that when you are tempted you are sinning. When you're tempted, that's when the fight begins. And you have to remember Jesus, invite Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to follow in the example of Jesus, all of us men are tempted, and I know we don't like to talk about this as men. We like to talk about our strengths and not our weaknesses and our victories and not our failures and our good days and not our bad days. But what we're gonna look at now is a moment where Jesus was tempted. And this is an amazing moment. If Jesus has been there, then when we get there, we can talk to him and he can walk us through it. Here's the story of Jesus temptation. And look for one and two. Jesus was what? Full of the Holy Spirit. He's spirit filled. Lemme just break here for a moment. There's these debates within Christianity. Do you, do you speak in tugs or not speaking tugs? And it's this prayer language. And the question is, well, are you like Jesus? See, because we don't know if Jesus spoke in tongues, but we do know that he was filled with the Holy Spirit. What that means is being filled with the Holy Spirit. It's fine if you speak in tongues and it's fine if you don't. But the most important thing if you're filled with the Holy Spirit is to be like Jesus. And, and so ultimately, if you wanna be like Jesus, you need the Holy Spirit. You need to live by the same power that he lived by. And that's the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. So Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. And so what happens then? Uh, he returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit. The spirit led him into a temptation and a fight and a test. Sometimes you men think, oh my gosh, I'm I'm being tempted. What are you doing, Lord? He's like, follow me. This is a test. And when you, you pass it, you're gonna be a stronger man in the wilderness for 40 days being tempted by the devil. So when God is testing you, Satan is tempting you. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, this seems like kind of a funny line. He was hungry. How many of you guys, 40 minutes, you'd be like, I'm tapping out right now. 40 days. Uh, and so temptation, here's a couple things about temptation from the life of Jesus. Number one, temptation usually comes after great success. What just happened previously for those of you who know the Bible a little bit. Luke chapter three, what happened? Jesus got baptized and the Father spoke from heaven. This is my son in whom I'm well please, the Holy Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove. He's now anointed, uh, in the Holy Spirit for public ministry. It's a great win. Next thing you know, 40 days of testing through temptation, you men need to know that sometimes after the greatest victory comes the greatest temptation you single men need to know. I'll just verbal process a little bit for you. Some of you single guys know you need to know that your sexual temptation won't even go next level until after your honeymoon. Uh, I dunno if there's any married men that would like to be honest and testify to this. But how many of you guys thought when you're single, like, I'm very tempted, I wanna have sex. I can't wait till I get married. And the temptation is gone. Married men, when you're tempted does the when, when you're married, rather, does the temptation go away? No. Now you know what you're doing. Now you got new ideas, right? You're like, Hey, we're gonna do some Cirque de Soleil. I, I, you know, I've been thinking about this, okay? And so probably shouldn't have said that. But what happens is a lot of guys, so guys think, oh, I'll get married and then I won't have a battle. No, now you're gonna have a real battle. Satan didn't even show up till Adam and Eve were married. Sometimes it's after you get the raise of the promotion that you're gonna be tempted to not be good with your finances. Sometimes it's after, uh, you do something very significant work and get accomplished for that, and you get acknowledged for that. And then the temptation is not to become arrogant and prideful. See, sometimes we think that failure is hard to manage. And sometimes success is very hard to manage. This was the most significant public moment in Jesus' life and ministry. And then the next 40 days is being tempted. In addition, sometimes we find ourselves in temptation because we wandered in through sin. Other times we were led by the spirit of God. Some of you right now, you're in a difficult season and you're being tested and tempted. You are like, God, have you abandoned me? He is like, no son, I've led you here you are like, but Father, it hurts and it's difficult and

I'm struggling. He's like, yeah. It's like leg day at the gym. You're gonna get stronger. I'm making into a man. You're gonna have a little resistance and a little opposition and you're gonna need to fight through this a little bit. If you wanna be a man's son, I need to put some pressure on the bar and you need to learn to lift it. And I'm not doing that to crush you. I'm doing that to strengthen you. 'cause if you're not strong, life's gonna crush you. In addition, Jesus is isolated. So if Jesus gives into the temptation he's about to face, who knows nobody. Satan's gonna come to him in a moment. He is like, you want chicks, you want drugs, you want alcohol, you want money, you want fame, you want comfort, you want to hear 'em, you wanna live in a castle? I'll give it all to you. And if he says yes, there's no witnesses. Don't be surprised when Satan tempts you, when you're isolated, when you're all alone. Sometimes as men, when we're tempted, there are things that we do when no one is looking that we would never do if anyone was looking. And we need to remember that God sees and knows all, but he's isolated. In addition, uh, he is at the limits of his humanity. How many of you guys are in the medical profession, right? Where's somebody at after 40 days of no food? You're not. And so Jesus didn't start, you ever watch that television? Sh uh, that that show alone? They drop a guy off in the middle of nowhere and he is gotta create, you know, housing and food and water source. And the guy who lives the longest gets a prize. One of the ways that the guys do alone, and very few make it 40 days, some guys get as fat as possible, right? They look like, you know, one of the guys in the cantina and in Star Wars, they're just giant like jab alike guys. And then their, their goal is just to sit in the hut and their body just consume all of their excess fat for 40 days. Jesus wasn't like that. He was young, strong, healthy. He was hiking and walking a lot. He had a job as a carpenter. In all likelihood, he's a lean guy. If you're a lean guy and you don't eat for 40 days, what kinda shape are you in? It's rough. It's what the medical professionals say. His dangers include dehydration, significant weight loss, hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. Increased ketogenesis, which causes an increase in buildup of acid in the blood, hyponatremia, low sodium levels in the blood, and hyper eum, high levels of uric acid in the blood. His body is in crisis. How many of you guys, you're more tempted when you're weaker. You didn't sleep, you're, you're hungry, you you've got the flu, you got a new baby and they don't sleep when you do and you're just exhausted. That's where he is. Certain people, including some pastors, have tried a 40 day fast and they died, right? So oftentimes people are like, Jesus did a 40 day fast. I'm doing a 40 day fast talk to your doctor, right? Uh, I mean, you may not be planning your fast. You may be planning your funeral. Not everybody can make it, but what it says is he's led by the power of the Holy Spirit. And what this means is that the Holy Spirit is going to bring him the power that he needs for the temptation that he faces says he was full of the spirit. We've been talking in this series, that this is what it means to be anointed. That the Holy Spirit anoints you with power, so that then you can live the life and destiny that God has called into pointed for you. And so Jesus here is filled with the spirit. And the point is this. If Jesus can't overcome temptation without the spirit, neither can we. How many of you guys have tried the white knuckle, self-discipline? How many of you guys are, you're just very self-disciplined when it comes to temptation. The only way to overcome temptation ultimately is the power of the Holy Spirit. You're gonna reach the end of your humanity. And that's where God's grace kicks in. Well then we'll run through the story. The devil said to him, if you are the son of God, for those of you that know the Bible in Luke three, what did the father just say from heaven? This is my son. So he's questioning the identity of Son. You need to know that God is a father and you are his son. You are, if you are the son of God, command the stone to become bread. And Jesus answered him. It is not rid it. Uh, it is written rather, man shall not live, buy bread alone. So here, uh, Adam, our father, he ate a meal with Satan and sin came into the world. Here's Jesus the last. Adam. The Bible says he's not going to eat a meal with Satan and he's going to be a savior for the sinners in the world. A couple of things you need to know. God and Satan want a personal relationship with you. A lot of times guys talk about, I have a personal relationship with Jesus. Good. You need to know that Satan also wants a personal relationship with you. What he wants here is just to have a bite to eat with Jesus. True or false? That's what friends do, right? If he eats with Satan, he is now friends with Satan. In addition, sin is not always what you do, but who you follow. See, sometimes men only think of sin as an action. Sometimes it's a relationship. Like, why do you work for that guy? He's an evil guy. Why are you going to that church? He's an apostate, woke progressive. You know, why are you letting your wife boss you around? Why is it that the most

domineering, overbearing person in your extended family sets the agenda for your family? Sometimes sin isn't just what you do, it's who you follow. Would it have been a sin at this moment for Jesus to make? Well, first of all, can Jesus make bread out of a stone? Yeah, probably. Awesome bread. Awesome bread. Is it, it's not a, is it a sin to make bread? No. Jesus is literally the bread of life. So he's pro bread, right? And you guys like, I don't do carbs. Well, he's the bread of life, something to pray about, right? So, um, so it's not a sin to make bread. He can make bread. But what is the temptation? The temptation is to follow Satan and have a friendship with Satan, because Satan was the one who gave the recommendation to make the bread. Well, if he does what Satan asks, it's not that the action is a sin, but who he's following and the relationship that he's starting, that's a sin. Lemme say this, guys, some of the biggest destruction in your life comes with the friends that you choose. That's right. If you're gonna invite that guy into your house, invite that guy into your wife, your life relationship with your wife, your kids. I, I shouldn't have said into your wife, I didn't mean that. But if you've done that, you're naughty and it's wrong and you need to stop. So, uh, in addition, uh, they'll edit that out or, or I'll get kicked off of the internet. One of those two things. Um, and so in the moment when you're being tempted, you gotta remember not just who you are, but whose you are in that moment. He is like, here's what I want you to. He's like, no, I am the son of God. Let me say this. Jesus is the son of God. You are a son of God. God is your father. If you're a Christian, that means that he has adopted you into his family. He has positioned you where Christ is as your righteousness. And the result is you occupy a position that Galatians and Romans calls son. So when temptation comes, don't forget who you are. I am the father's son. In addition, you don't have anything to prove. And oftentimes men give into temptation by becoming insecure or feeding their pride and trying to prove themselves. The Father already said, this is my son. Jesus doesn't need to prove that he's the father's son. He is. Remember who you are. You have nothing to prove to anyone. You're the father's son and you don't have to prove it to anyone. The story then continues Luke four, five through seven. And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And he said to him, to you, I will give all this authority. 'cause Satan rules the world. If you wonder why the world is the way that it is, it's because he is the, he is the prince of this world. Uh, I will give all this authority and their glory for it has been delivered to me and I will give it to whom I will. If you then will worship me, it will all be yours. So here's what worship is. Worship is not just what you do when you sing with your mouth, but what you do with your life and the rest of your body. And what he says is, I'll give you everything, okay? Think about that guys. Think about every temptation that every man has ever had given to Jesus all in an instant. Okay? And how's he feeling? Exhausted. Lemme ask you this. In that moment, Jesus is, let's say roughly 30, 30 ish years of age. He's never touched a woman. Would that be a temptation? Yeah. What if he gets a harem of women? Well, that's a temptation. Uh, he's never been drunk and here is open bar, top shelf, every opportunity. He's never, he's never done drugs. But here, every illicit opportunity is made available in an instant. All of a sudden he's starving to death. Can you imagine the menu that was open to him in addition to power and fame and glory? And what Satan is saying is you can rule and reign and you don't need to go through the cross. This is the lie of pleasure that you can sit in glory and enjoy your life without going through suffering, hardship and pain. What he's saying is, if you wanna sit in the seat of worship and glory, how about if I just put you there? Because God's plan is, the father's plan is you gotta go through the cross and die for the sin of the world. That's gonna be a lot of pain. Uh, back to my original statement, the Holy Spirit just sort of brings this all to mind. Right now, Jesus' decision is pleasure or pain. Okay? If he chooses pleasure, we all go to hell. And Satan literally rules everyone and everything, including God. If he chooses pain, I'm gonna be tempted and suffer and betrayed and die on the cross for the sins of the world, then we get salvation. There are times in our life two things you need to know that the decision is between pain and pleasure. And number two, that a lot of other people are going to be involved in the results of your decision because you're ahead. When the pleasure and pain decision comes, if you always choose pleasure and you don't choose pain that's gonna affect your wife. If you're married, that's gonna affect your kids. If you're a dad, that's gonna affect your grandkids. If you're a granddad, that's gonna affect your friend group. That's gonna affect your employee, uh, employer relationship. Okay? As I say this, I can just see it. I sense it in the spirit. Two things. Number one, the Holy Spirit is for some of you guys showing you that you've been in this moment many times, this is your

temptation where you've gotta decide pain and self-control or pleasure and lack of control. Number two, some of you guys have failed this test many, many times. You need to know what your test is. And then you need to know what the, what the cost of the decision is. And then you need to prepare yourself for the next time, time that that test comes. Can you just imagine if Jesus, back to Hebrews four, he was tempted in every way as we are. Can you imagine how tough this test was? Nobody's there. Just imagine in your own life, if Satan showed up and said, I will give you untold wealth. Every woman you can conceive of, every sexual act you could even imagine, and then some new ones you've never thought of. I'll give you every vehicle over at the Barrett Jackson. I will give you the biggest fattest house. You're gonna have complete power and authority. You're gonna be worshiped as a God. And everything you eat is gonna be a delicacy. And nothing you drink is gonna be under \$10,000 a bottle for the rest of your life. That's a rough day. And Jesus said no to the pleasure and yes to the pain. And that's why he's the greatest man. The only way to be a great man is to learn to say no to the pleasure and say yes to the pain. This is the difference between a boy and a man. The story then continues and Jesus answered him. It is written. So where does he go? He's Jesus is back to the Bible. Jesus is like, you wanna argue with me? How about we shift the argument to you in the Bible, when Satan wants to argue with you, don't argue with him. Let him argue with the scriptures. It is written. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve by the way he's gonna go through. And Jesus is quoting from memory a book of the Bible called Deuteronomy. How many of you guys like if your salvation depended on your memorized Deuteronomy verses, it would be rough, right? Okay. And the point is there's good verses all over the Bible. He's in Deuteronomy and he took up to Jerusalem, set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, if you are the son of God, throw yourself down from here forward is written. He will command his angels concerning you to guard you and on their hands, they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. Jesus answered him. It is said He is gonna quote the Bible again. You shall not put the Lord your God to the test. And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until what? An opportune time. Just because you say no to the pleasure doesn't mean it's over forever. Satan will tempt you. And that's spiritual warfare. And if you decide to say no to the pleasure and yes to the pain, eventually he will depart, but promise you this, he will return. Couple of things you guys need to know, Satan, here is misquoting the word of God. Satan misquotes the word of God to our first parents, Adam and Eve. And then he quotes the scriptures wrongly to the Lord Jesus. So here's what you need to know. The Bible says in Hebrews and Ephesians that this is a weapon, it's a sword for battle and war. And the point is this, if you don't know how to use it, your enemy does. This is like a foolish guy who never takes a class on how to handle a sidearm, walks around with it and somebody just takes it away and shoots him with it. It does him no good unless he knows how to use it. Satan knows the Bible and he knows it well enough to misquote it. And if you don't know well enough to quote it, then what he's literally doing, he's taking that weapon from you and he's using it to destroy you. This is where I want you men to know that sometimes the guys who quote the Bible, they work for the devil. Some of you new guys need to know is just because a guy quotes a verse doesn't mean he's serving Jesus. There are some really wicked evil demonic sons of the devil and they will misquote the bible and weaponize it to control men, to abuse men. And so we do, for those of you guys who are new, are we the guys who love and believe the Bible? Right? We, we love and believe the Bible. We're we're the guys who love and believe the Bible we're those guys. But but again here, Satan quotes it. It's a good thing that Jesus knows it. Satan is gonna send some people into your life and they're gonna misquote the word of God. And you need to know it to defend yourself and your family. And what we see here is, I love the fact that Jesus gets the last word. Jesus always gets the last word. So two things. Number one, if Jesus got tempted, guess what's gonna happen in your life? You're gonna get tempted. You're gonna get tempted. I'll be honest with you, I'm your pastor. I love you. I've been teaching, preaching the Bible for 30 years. I got a beautiful wife, got five kids of love with my whole heart. Best season of my life, I got beautiful grandsons. I'm richly blessed. I get tempted. I get tempted all the time. And there's certain temptations for me like there are for you. If I don't pay attention to them, they come real fast and quick. And I gotta make sure I'm on offense and, and I gotta make sure that I stay on offense. I don't want you guys to feel guilty or dirty or shameful because you're tempted. I just want you to know that if it happened to Jesus, it's gonna happen to us and it

happens to me. That's why we're doing real men and not religious men, right? Amen. That's why we're doing real man, not religious men. Okay? And the point is this, when the temptation comes, that's your test. Um, if you're in school or you were in school, what do you do before your test study? Well, this is your homework, right? The word of God is your homework. So you're like, what do I need to study? 'cause a test is coming and the reason you need to study right now is 'cause you're preparing for the test. Now, the temptation is a test. So Satan wants it to be a temptation to fail you. God wants it to be a test to pass and graduate you. The reason we study the Bible is not 'cause we feel like it today, but because we know we're gonna need it tomorrow. Had Jesus not memorized these verses before the test came, he would've failed the test and he couldn't have passed the test. I would encourage you men, make sure you have regular time in God's word and read it, memorize it, study it, whatever works for you. Find a Bible reading plan. If you're looking for one, I'll just throw it out there. There's a thing called you version. Uh, it's a Bible reading app. It's great if you just put my name in. There's a one year Bible reading plan. I'll take you through the whole Bible in a year, right? Whatever works. I don't whatever works for you. But I would say just get into God's word. Get God's word into you. How many of you guys, uh, I just feel like saying this. How many of you guys, you're in a profession where they kind of have a manual and you need to know it if you wanna, if you want to do your job. How many of you are electricians? You're like, I'll figure it out. No, you won't. You're gonna die, right? How many of you, you're engineers and you're like, I need to know the numbers. How many of you are architects? They're like, I need to know the code. How many of you are doctors? And you're like, I need to know the diagnosis of the prescription. How many of you guys are accountants? You're like, well, I need to know the tax laws. How many of you are in, um, maybe you're in the military, you're like, I need to understand the chain of command and orders. Some of you guys are law and first responder, and you need to know what the legal implications are. The point is this, we're the sons of God and before we can actually do the job, quote unquote, that God has called us to do and live the life that God has called us to, we gotta, we gotta, we gotta do our homework. And the homework prepares us for the test. And Jesus passes test. Now let, lemme give you two scriptures and then let me start to wrap this up. Luke four, one is the beginning of his test and his temptation. Luke four 14 is the end of his test and his temptation, Luke four, one, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit was led by the spirit and the wilderness. So we're gonna talk about being spirit-filled Luke four 14. Jesus returned in the power of the power comes from the spirit, the power to say yes to pain and no to pleasure when needed comes from the Spirit and the report went out about him through all the surrounding country. Couple of things. Um, number one, let me speak to you men who have failed your test. Some of you failed it in the past. Like I, we got divorced. I was unfaithful to my wife. I had a job and I was an addict and I lost it. Uh, I was dating a great girl and I was a total knucklehead and she dumped me. Um, I started a company and then I did not seek the Lord and I wasn't living wisely. And it cost me everything. Okay? For those of you guys who have failed your test, it's not over. This is what's wonderful about God, our father, he lets sons who fail their test, retake their test. We call that grace. And so some of you men, I can just sense it in the room. I, I I I'm so honored that you're here. You need to know how much you matter to the Lord and you matter to me and you and you matter to the men who lead this ministry. You mean the world to us. But some of you guys, you started with great aspirations and your test came and you were tempted and you failed. And some of you men wrongly believe that it's over. I failed. There's, there's not a future for me. There's not a hope for me. There's not a marriage for me. There's not a family for me. There's not a career path for me. There's not an income stream for me. There's not a ministry opportunity for me. Yes, there is. Uh, it's not in my notes, but I feel like Jesus wants me to tell you this. He took your test and he passed your test and he allows you to keep taking your test until you pass your test. And he wants to help you to take and pass your test. Do you believe that? Okay. That I, I need you, I need you men to just own this As men at some point. We all fail the test and he passed and he forgives us and he lets us retake our test and he helps us to pass it. And if you fail your test, he's gonna allow you to retake your test again. Here's what's gonna happen. You're gonna keep taking that test until you pass or die. And the quicker you pass that test, the sooner you graduate to the next level of masculinity, respect, dignity, authority, and anointing. And in the middle, the pleasure is going to continually tempt you short term to fail the test. I want you to choose the pain. And then I want you to

pass the test so that you can then have on the other side the greater pleasure of a clear conscience and presence of God and self-control and dignity in the future. And courage, knowing that God has destiny for you and your father has a future for you. And he got you through your test to graduate you so that he could promote you into the next level of masculinity and leadership and influence and anointing. That's exactly men. That's exactly men why we're here. It's time for you to pass your test. It's time for you to graduate. It's time for you to elevate. That's what God asked for you. I just sense in the spirit, I'm so excited for you. Some of you guys have been walking like I failed. I've lost, get your head up. He passed your test. He's here to help you pass your test. He wants to graduate you. He has destiny for you. He has a future for you. He has good plans for you. He has anointing for you. He has blessing for you. Don't let the father of lies lie to the son of God that you are. And tell him that just because you failed once, you're a failure. And that is completely impossible for you to retake and pass your test. I don't know what your test is, but I'm telling you right now, by the authority and power of Jesus Christ, you can and will pass that test. You are the father's son. You're the father son. And you're gonna need a fresh anointing for that task when the Holy Spirit comes on Jesus and leads him in. And the Holy Spirit comes on Jesus and leads him out and in the middle, he passes his test and he passed our test as well. He was anointed. It was a fresh anointing. Some of you men, you need to know that the reason you have not passed your test, but you failed your test is because you didn't take it with his anointing. He didn't stop saying, oh, holy Spirit, I need power. I'm tempted today. I'm struggling. I'm in the fight. I feel like the devil showed up and I'm in a tough spot. You need to stop and invite the Holy Spirit, holy Spirit, come to me like it came to Jesus. Give me the power that you gave to Jesus. Give me the anointing that carried Jesus through this temptation so that I can follow Jesus and your power will carry me through this temptation. And what it is meant. It's in that moment when you're really tempted and you're tested and you're in it, okay? And, and do, do you get it, man? Do you, do you remember the last time you were there? You just, you felt it. You're like, ah, I feel like the devil is on one side and God is on the other, and I'm leaning the wrong direction. When that moment comes, stop, okay, father, I'm your son. Just like you got Jesus, your Son, through his temptation, uh, thank you Jesus, that you've already taken and passed this test for me. I'm inviting the Holy Spirit to give me the power of Jesus so I can follow Jesus. And God is so gracious there, there's a line, holy Spirit brings to mind. I think it's Luke 11:12. He says, uh, he says, some fathers are evil and they still give what kind of gifts to their children, good gifts. He said, how much more so will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask? Just stop and say, father, I'm your son. I'm asking for the Holy Spirit. How many of you men, if your son comes up to you and says, dad, I love you with my whole heart. I wanna obey you and do what's right, but I'm really struggling and I'm wondering if you'd be willing to help me. What's your answer for your son? Oh, son, I love you. That's why I'm here. That's why you have a dad. I thank you for inviting me in God's a father, you're a son. When the temptation to fight the test comes and I don't know what it is for you and I sense it in the spirit. Some of you're in it right now. Some of you, it's sexual or it's financial or it's moral. And right now you're, you're, you've got a decision to make. Am I gonna continue to fail this test or am I gonna retake it? Am I gonna just stop and invite the Holy Spirit to anoint, gimme a fresh anointing, forgive me in my sins and anoint me for my future? Gimme a fresh anointing to say no to pleasure and yes to pain so that on the other side, I could have greater pleasure hearing. Well done, son, you passed your test. I'm proud of you. You're a better man now you're a stronger man. Now you're a better husband. You're a better worshiper. You're a better father, you're a better son, you're a better brother. And and, and lemme tell you this, I'll just close with this. Um, most of the time, your temptation is right before your opportunity. See, after Jesus passes this temptation test, he starts his public ministry. After this test comes Christianity, right? I'm saying usually when you have the greatest temptation and the biggest test, it's Satan trying to destroy and disqualify you when God is getting ready to promote and elevate you. And so you've gotta look beyond the pleasure through the Father, choose the pain so that you can get onto the opportunity that God has for you. I'm telling you, men on the other side of your greatest temptation is your greatest opportunity and you just need to get through your temptation to get to your opportunity. Am I making sense? Okay. Um, I'll just close with some questions for the guys online or in the room, and then we'll cut the live stream. And I got one thing for the guys in the room. Um, what did the Holy Spirit highlight in the talk for you? What are you like? Okay,

that's what I need to write down, remember, and take home. And then honestly, not guilt and shame and condemnation, but how was your time in scripture? What practical advice did the men of the group have for guys who need to get into the word around the table or in the group? Online will be some guys who are in the word a lot and some who aren't. You guys who are in the word a lot. Just be humble, don't be arrogant and just help the other guys figure out how to get into some good habits and getting God's word into them. And then number three, how can we pray for you? And I'll do that right now. Father, thanks for an opportunity to teach. Thank you for these men. Lord, thank you that these men tune in because they want to be better sons and worshipers and husbands and fathers and grandfathers and brothers and employers and employees. Lord God, I pray that you would pour special grace out on your sons. And Lord, I pray against the enemy, his servants, their works and effects as it seems like everything online, everything at the liquor store, everything at the fast food drive through everything, uh, in the video game, chat room, uh, everything with, uh, sex and women and dating and relationships, Lord God, all the way to gambling and vaping and smoking and fighting. All of it is just getting men to live for a dopamine hit, which can be a demonic counterfeit of the power of the Holy Spirit. And so God, I pray for a special anointing on these men. I thank you that you love them with a father's heart, and I thank you that they're gonna start passing their tests and graduating to new levels of influence, maturity, masculinity, and dignity and Holy Spirit, I pray that when they stop and call out to you, that you would come down to empower them. In Jesus' name, amen. Amen. Um, thank you men for letting me teach. Um, We'll skip the next slide. I'm gonna leave it right there. You guys are now dismissed to spend time round tables. Know this. Your pastor loves you with his whole heart.