

# “Are You BE-ing Spirit-Led?”

Matthew 4:1a

August 18, 2024

**INTRO:**      *Where are you going... and why?*  
                    *(...and how do you plan to get there?)*  
                    *(...and what do you expect to find?)*

## PRAYER

### CONTEXT:

- Matthew’s Gospel... *mMm sermon series*
- We’ve established and number of principles...
- *Shocking... Troubling... Confrontational... Biblical!*

**T/S:**                      (immediately following His baptism...)

*Jesus Christ’ beginning as a desert dwelling Deliverer is as “troubling” as was His family tree, His miraculous announcements, His barnyard birth, and His shocking, Trinity-displaying baptism.*

That is because... “there is more to the story than spiritual preparation. Matthew tells us that Jesus goes into the desert **for the expressed purpose of being tempted by the devil.”**

– NIV Commentary

## BIG IDEA:

Jesus showed us the way,  
**BE-ing Spirit-led,**  
to win in war & witnessing.

## PREVIEW:

(A.S.K. “Am I BE-ing Spirit-led?”)

- A. **ALWAYS** (“Then” asks “when” & “when” is ALWAYS in Christ!)
- B. **SUBMISSIVE**
- C. **KOINONIA** (vertical & horizontal per John 17)

## TEXT:

Matthew 4:1a

***“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit...”***  
*(into the wilderness, to be tempted, by the devil.)*

## T/S: Triumph through Temptation

The temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4 is a familiar passage for many Christians. We may even be able to recite the three temptations Satan set before our Lord, along with Christ’s responses. Yet, if we’re not careful, there’s a danger that we’ll miss the meaning of this well-known story, a meaning that is crucial in our own battle against sin. We need to see the close tie between the temptations Jesus faced and the spiritual battles that all of us face.

## Six Realities:

- A. There is a spiritual world.
- B. We are involved in a spiritual war.
- C. Our enemy in this spiritual war is formidable.
- D. The stakes in this spiritual war are eternal.
- E. The scope of this spiritual war is universal.
- F. Our involvement in this spiritual war is personal.

***You are being tempted... even if you don't realize it.***

*In the book, **Tempted and Tried**, the author explains why we might be on the verge of wrecking our lives, especially if we don't know it. He uses the illustration of cows being led to the slaughter to make the point.*

*For a long time, cattle workers would forcefully push and prod cows into the slaughterhouse. For good reason, the cows would resist, and the whole operation would be extremely difficult to carry out. That's until one particular scientist came along and pointed out that the most efficient way to slaughter cows is to make them feel "contented and comfortable" as they enter into the slaughterhouse. In other words, keep the scenery the same as it is in the most peaceful moments of the cow's life.*

*In this system the cows aren't prodded off the truck but are led, in silence, onto a ramp. They go through a "squeeze chute," a gentle pressure device that mimics a mother's nuzzling touch. The cattle continue down the ramp onto a smoothly curving path. There are no sudden turns. The cows experience the sensation of going home, the same kind of way they've traveled so many times before.*

As they mosey along the path, they don't even notice when their hooves are no longer touching the ground. A conveyor belt slowly lifts them gently upward, and then, in the twinkling of an eye, a blunt instrument levels a surgical strike right between their eyes. They're transitioned from livestock to meat and they're never aware enough to be alarmed by any of it.

Like the cattle in the illustration, we too can be lulled into thinking that everything is all right, even as danger is approaching. Oh how we need to be aware of the forces that are afoot right now, working to lure us into places that we do not want to go!

To repeat the author's insightful warning, we are on the verge of wrecking our lives, especially if we don't know it.

At every point, we are prone to sin.

Our involvement in spiritual warfare is personal, and the same holds true for every follower of Christ. The battles may look different as they play out in other people's lives, but don't be fooled: the war is real, and the evil one is persistently plotting to subtly entice you with sin and ultimately to bring destruction upon your soul. **So don't be caught unaware.**

– David Platt

# I. ALWAYS

**“Then...”**

➤ NOTE THE TIME & SEQUENCE ELEMENT... (BEFORE & AFTER).

○ **BEFORE:**

- THEOLOGICAL SHOCK & AWE!
- BIBLICAL/HISTORICAL SHOCK & AWE!
- MISSIONAL SHOCK & AWE!
- CONFRONTATIONAL SHOCK & AWE!

○ **AFTER:**

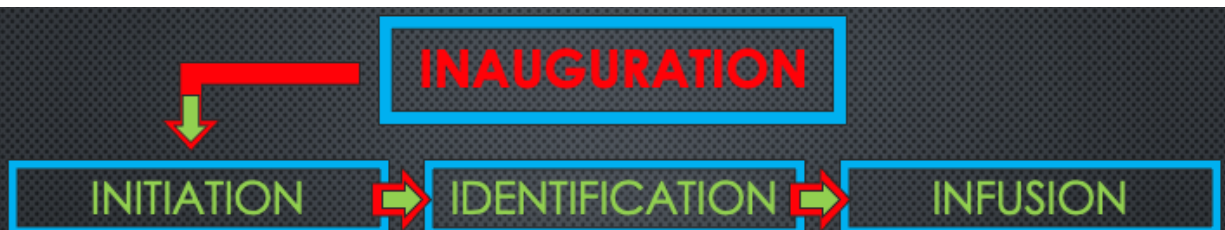
- TACTICAL SHOCK & AWE!

*Jesus first fights & fasts before He preaches...*

- PERSONAL SHOCK & AWE!
- ETERNAL SHOCK & AWE!

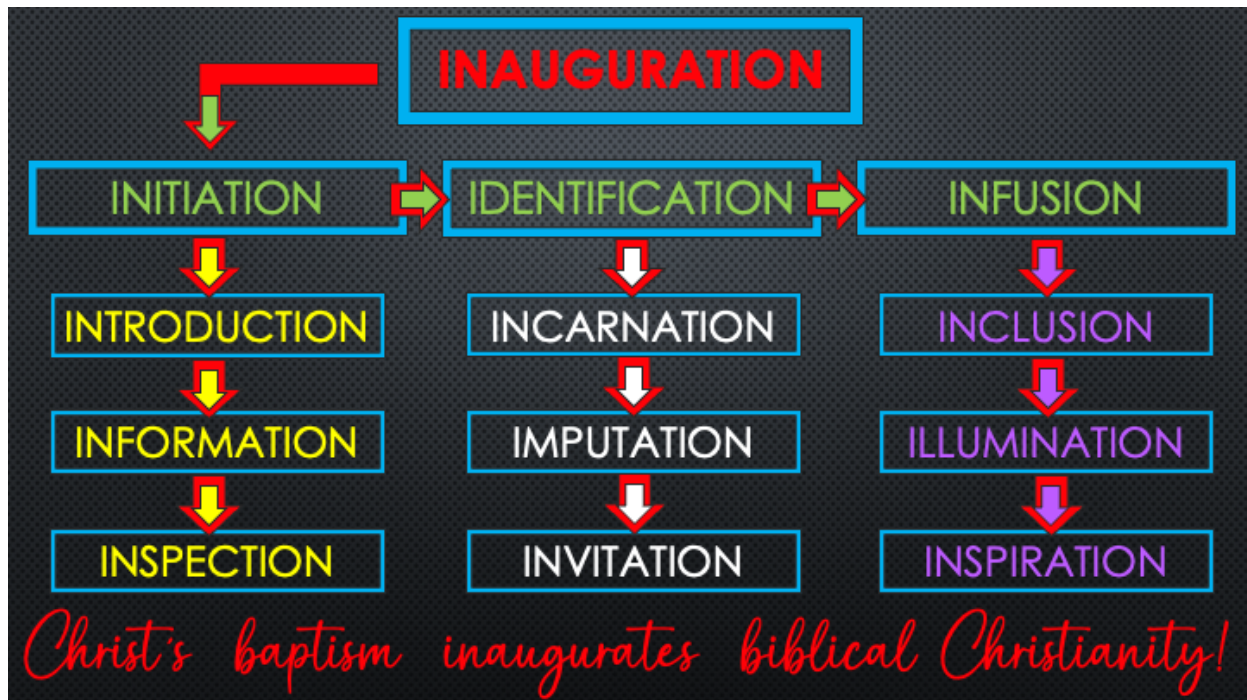
➤ **Inauguration** = public ceremonial induction to office

- Initiation *"Then Jesus came to fulfill all right."*
- Identification (Jesus is the **Messiah/Christ**)
- Infusion (see [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#))



2 Corinthians 5:21

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*



- Coronation = the official crowning of the king

Matthew 3:18

*"this is My Son in whom I am well-pleased."*

- Accession = king begins executing his royal duties
  - **Power** - only the king can proceed...
  - Priorities - king determines 1<sup>st</sup> things 1<sup>st</sup>
  - **Purposes** - kingdom purposes prioritized

## II. SUBMITTING

*"Then Jesus was led up..."*

The phrase "**led by the Spirit**" appears in the N.T in 2 places, **Romans 8:14 & Galatians 5:18**... their main purpose is to show how to live a joyful and obedient life that glorifies God.

\*\*\* **"BE-ing led" (Spirit-led) is the key!** \*\*\*

- **Led** = intentionality
- **Led** = a Leader is involved and actively being followed.
- The biggest question is: **Who is leading?**
  - **Holy Spirit?**
    - **Guardrails** of God's Word
    - **Guidance** by God's Spirit
    - **Goodness** in God's Pleasing
  - **Satan?**
  - **Self?**
  - **Someone else?**

***Beware! Sabotage is always a potential danger!***

- **SIN?**

Hear God's Word, heed His will, & submit to His ways:

**Galatians 5:1 – 6:2**

1For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

2Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

7You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

13For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

***Keep in Step with the Spirit***



**16**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17**For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19**Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20**idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21**envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **24**And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**25**If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. **26**Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### ***Bear One Another's Burdens***

**1**Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, **lest you too be tempted.** **2** ***Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*** *(This is the koinonia fruit of living & loving Spirit-led!)*

**T/S:** *BEing Spirit-led defines the pleasing family of God!*

# III. KOINONIA (per John 17)

*“Then Jesus was led up **by the Spirit...**”*

## Psalm 143:10

*Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God;  
Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*

## Proverbs 3:5-6

*Lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways  
acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*

## We pray & obey to BE Spirit-led like Christ, knowing:

- It's biblical (see Blackaby's hierarchy of hearing...)
- It's a miracle
- It's missional
- It's personal
- It's controversial
- It's consequential
- It's monumental
- It's eternal
- It's essential
- It's transformational
- It's relational (vertical & horizontal)
- It's instructional
- It's inspirational

- It's formal
- It's informal
- It's tactical
- It's methodological
- It's conditional
- It's antithetical (opposite of Satan, self, someone else, & SIN)
- It's theological
- It's exponential
- It's non-negotiable
- It's emotional
- It's logical
- It's supernatural
- It's prophetic
- It's multi-directional
- It's universal
- It's sentimental
- It's seasonal
- It's perpetual

To be Spirit-led is to be grace-fed. – JDP

### **When it's not authentic and of The Almighty...**

- It's unbiblical
- It's heretical
- It's hyper-spiritual
- It's hypocritical
- It's evil

## Romans 8

*Life in the Spirit:* **1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. **6** For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **7** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **8** Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **IF in fact** the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. **10** But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. **11 IF** the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

*Heirs with Christ:* **12** So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, **but IF by the Spirit**

**YOU put to death** the deeds of the body, you will live. **14**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15**For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17**and **IF** children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided** we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him....

*Future Glory:* ...**26**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27**And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29**For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30**And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified...

*God's Everlasting Love:* **37**...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39**nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



**One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.**

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).” – Acts 1:8*

**One Question:           WHAT DO YOU WANT?**

**One Offer:               COME AND SEE.**

**One Promise:           TRUTH IN LOVE!**

**Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...**

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
- 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
- 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
- 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
- 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
- 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
- 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
- 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
- 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
- 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
- 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
- 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!

## REVIEW:

Jesus showed us the way, in  
**BE-ing Spirit-led,**  
to win in war & witnessing.

## CLOSE:

**So A.S.K.**

(Always Submitting in Koinonia)

## “Are You BE-ing Spirit-Led?”

### ➤ For What?

- To BE Christ-like & truly please the Father!
- **1 Corinthians 10:31 & Colossians 3:17**
- **John 15:8...*bear much fruit & glorify the Father***

### ➤ So What?

- **BE a Gospel witness... John 3:3; 3:16; 3:36**
- See **John 15... *otherwise you can do nothing!***
- See **John 20:21... BE a Gospel witness...**

### ➤ Now What?

- **John 14:15... Acts 1:8... Matthew 28:18-20**

## PRAYER

## WORSHIP:

*With Lifted Hands & Firm Foundation*