

Review Ephesians 6:10-11.

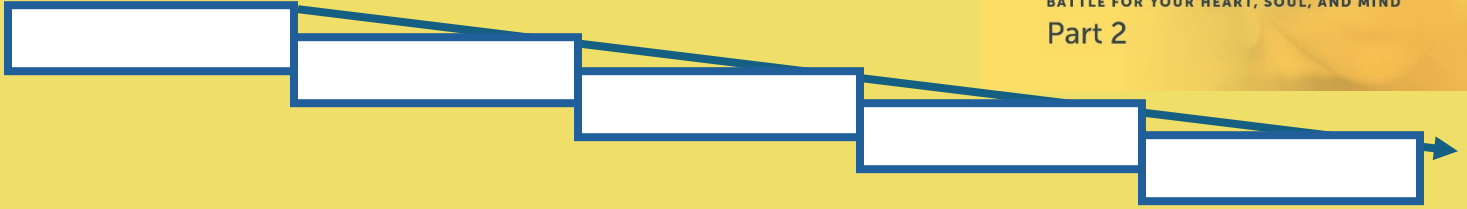
Last time, we looked at Eve's temptation by the serpent. Do you remember the three partner enemies and the five downward steps?

02

Spiritual Warfare!

BATTLE FOR YOUR HEART, SOUL, AND MIND

Part 2



Today, we will look at Jesus' temptation by Satan. Read the event in **Matthew 4:1-11**. Where do you see the 3 enemies? _____ 

Now, read the temptation of Jesus on the next page and . . .

1. **Highlight** or **underline** the three temptations of the devil,
2. **Draw a line** from the allurements of the world in the **left column** to the corresponding temptation of Jesus in the middle column, and
3. **Draw a line** from the desire in the **right column** to the corresponding temptation of Jesus in the middle column. Then, come back to this page.



What are the similarities and differences between the temptation of Eve and Jesus? _____

Considering the similarities and differences between Eve and Jesus, how can you have the victory that Jesus experienced when you are tempted by sin? _____

Now, let's shift gears a bit. Listen to this story, "Sharing the Gospel Through Your Faith Story" . . .

Allurements

Passages

Desires

**Desire of
the Eyes**

Satan tempts Jesus to change stone into bread (Matthew 4:1-4).

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Need

**Pride of
Life**

Satan tempts Jesus to leap from the temple (5-7).

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

*"He will command his angels concerning you," and
"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."
(Psalm 91:11-12; Deuteronomy 6:16)*

Glory

**Desire of
the Flesh**

Satan tempts Jesus with kingdoms (8-11).

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

*"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve." (Deuteronomy 6:13)*

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Pleasure

Memorize Ephesians 6:12. (ESV) *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."*

Sharing the Gospel Through Your Faith Story

I once had lunch with a highly educated young man who told me, “I’m an atheist and you are a Christian. The difference between you and me is that your life is based on faith and mine is based on facts.” My response: “No, you have as much or more faith as I do, but my faith is in God, and your faith is in atheistic evolution.”

When I asked him if he could scientifically prove that the universe was not divinely created and that humans evolved from non-living matter, he admitted that he could not prove these and reluctantly agreed that his worldview was also rooted in faith.



Everybody has faith and everybody has a “faith story.”

Sometimes, we, who are Christians, talk about sharing our “testimonies.” If we are specifically talking about sharing our testimonies with unbelievers, we may call them our “evangelistic testimonies.” But the terms “testimony” and “evangelistic testimony” may frighten unbelievers. Whereas most people, even non-Christians, will be receptive to hearing your “story,” even if it is your faith story.

The likelihood of people being receptive to your faith story will increase significantly if it’s brief (four minutes or less), non-preachy, and logically ordered. The previous article (Part 1 of this two-part series) focused on “Crafting Your Faith Story.” We suggested a couple of formats for a faith story, both of which included:

- **The “Before” – Your life before Jesus changed it.**
- **The “How” – How you came to faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **The “After” – Your life since you were saved.**

Writing, critiquing, tweaking, practicing, tweaking, practicing, re-tweaking, polishing, etc. etc. are important in making your faith story effective. Here are some critique-guidelines for crafting a faith story that unbelievers will listen to, even though the gospel is clearly embedded in the story.

Top Ten Tips for Crafting Your Faith Story

1. Make your story sound informal, conversational, and not memorized.

2. As much as possible, try to connect your story to what you know about the person with whom you are sharing—life background, pre-Christian concerns, and your faith journey prior to becoming a true believer in Jesus as Savior.
3. Avoid sounding “preachy” by keeping it personal and conversational.
4. Use “I” and “me” and avoid using “you.” Remember, this is YOUR faith story.
5. Even if you were saved as a child, make your story sound grown-up and not childish.
6. Avoid dogmatic and mystical statements that might entice the recipient to debate them, especially if he or she is somewhat skeptical.
7. Avoid a “happily ever after” ending, implying that the Christian life is problem-free.
8. Keep it simple. Too many names/details can make it difficult to understand your story.
9. Casual humor or other interesting anecdotes are helpful, if they can be woven naturally into your story in a non-distracting manner.
10. And maybe the most important of all—avoid religious terms and Christian jargon that you might use freely with other Christians, but that may be unknown to the recipient of your story. Think of ways to express salvation-related truths in common terminology that can be understood by people who are not familiar with the Bible or Christianity or our Christian sub- culture.

Some Don'ts and Some Do's

Don't Use Such Terms as These:

- Born again
- Saved
- Christian
- Went forward in church
- Sin or sinner (unless defined in context)
- Accepted Jesus
- Got right with the Lord
- Pray the prayer
- Confessed
- Under the blood, etc.

Better to Use Wording Like This:

- Trusted Jesus Christ for my salvation
- Rebelled against God
- Disobeyed God
- Broke/violated God's moral laws
- Placed my complete faith in Jesus
- Told God I have done wrong
- True believer in Jesus Christ
- TRUE Christian
- Accepted God's forgiveness
- God accepted me into His family

Getting into and out of Your Faith Story

In conversations with people whom you think need to hear your faith story, look for opportunities (“entry points”) that make it natural for you to ask permission to share your faith story, something like this: “Would you be interested in hearing my personal faith story?” Or “Would it be OK if I shared with you the story of how I became a sincere follower of Jesus Christ?”

When you have finished sharing your story, you might ask, “Does that make sense to you?” or “Does that bring up any questions in your mind?”

When you have addressed your friend’s questions, if he or she has some, you might say something like this: “Now, I’d love to hear your personal faith story—would you mind telling me about your spiritual journey?”

If your conversation reveals an interest to know more about Jesus and the gospel, you might ask if he or she would be interested in doing a Bible study together, using ***The Story of Hope*** or ***God’s Story/Your Story***.

