

EPHESIANS - POWER & LOVE

Memory Verse: “Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

The Point: We can fight evil with the truth of God’s word.

Is it in the Bible?

1. “There is no God.”
2. “Go on sinning.”
3. “Hate your enemy.”
4. He (Jesus) gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons.
5. “The world around us is under the control of the evil one.”

Is it in the Bible?

1. Psalm 14:1

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

2. Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!

3. Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

4. Matthew 12:22-24

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

5. 1 John 5:18-20

We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God.

How Can You Fact-Check Someone That's Quoting the Bible?

1. Resources: Biblegateway.com
Biblehub.com
Youversion.com (The Bible app)

2. Remember the **BASICs**:

Before
After
Speaker
Intent
Culture

B/A: What comes **before** and **after** that verse in the Bible?

What kinds of things did that person say **before** and **after** quoting the Bible?

S: Who is **speaking** in the Bible? Jesus? Or a hostile person, like the Pharisees?
Who is quoting the Bible? Are they honest and trustworthy?

I: What is the **intent** of the verse? What does God want you to learn from it?
What is the **intent** of someone quoting the Bible? To help? Or to cause trouble?

C: How did their **culture** affect how Bible people understood that verse?
Does our modern **culture** get in the way of understanding that part of the Bible?

Speaker/Intent Example: Luke 4:9-12

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Luke 4:9-12)

Modern Example:

A pastor named Raphael Warnock, who is running for Senator in Georgia right now, gave a sermon once where he said "You can't serve God and the military." A video clip of it is going around on youtube and facebook. Now a lot of military veterans are upset and have hurt feelings, thinking he said you can't be a real Christian if you are in the army. But if you look at what he said before and after, his sermon is about many different kinds of idol worship, based on a Bible verse where Jesus says you can't serve both God and money. In context, Mr. Warnock meant that you can serve *in* the military but that you can't "serve the military" like you serve God.

Challenge: Every day this week, take five minutes to read the Bible. (The book of Mark is a great place to start.)

Prayer: "Dear Jesus, please help us to read your word, remember your word, and fight evil with your word. Amen."