

# Luke 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

## Analysis

---

The third temptation moves to Jerusalem's temple pinnacle, using Scripture itself (Psalm 91:11-12) to tempt Christ to presumptuous faith. Satan's 'if thou be the Son of God' again challenges Christ's identity, but now suggests proving it through spectacular sign. The misuse of Scripture demonstrates Satan's sophistication—he quotes accurately but applies wrongly, omitting 'in all thy ways' which implies walking in God's paths, not testing God. Jesus counters with Deuteronomy 6:16, recalling Israel's testing God at Massah (Exodus 17:2-7). The Greek 'ekpeirazo' (tempt/test) implies testing with hostile intent or demanding proof of God's faithfulness. Reformed theology sees here the difference between faith (trusting God's promises) and presumption (demanding God perform on our terms). True faith rests on God's character and word; presumption demands signs and seeks to manipulate God.

## Historical Context

---

The temple pinnacle (Greek 'pterugion') likely refers to the southeastern corner of the temple complex, towering about 450 feet above the Kidron Valley—a dizzying height. Jewish tradition held that Messiah would reveal himself at the temple. Malachi 3:1 prophesied 'the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple.' A spectacular rescue before witnesses in Jerusalem would provide undeniable messianic credentials. Satan's use of Scripture would have been particularly troubling to a Jewish audience who revered God's word. Yet Jesus

demonstrates proper biblical interpretation—Scripture interprets Scripture, and no text should be used to contradict God's revealed will. The church fathers saw this as warning against spiritual presumption disguised as piety, and proof-texting Scripture to justify sin.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. What is the difference between faith that trusts God and presumption that tests God?
2. How can Scripture be misused even when quoted accurately, and how do we guard against this?
3. Why does Satan tempt Jesus to make a public spectacle rather than serve quietly?

## Interlinear Text

---

καὶ	”Ηγαγεν	αὐτῷ	εἰς	Ἰερουσαλὴμ	καὶ	ἔστησεν	αὐτῷ
And	he brought	him	to	Jerusalem	And	set	him
G2532	G71	G846	G1519	G2419	G2532	G2476	G846

ἐπὶ	τὸ	πτερύγιον	τοῦ	ἱεροῦ	καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Ei	
on	G3588	a pinnacle	G4419	G3588	of the temple	And	said	him	If
G1909				G2411		G2532	G2036	G846	G1487

ὁ	υἱὸς	εἰ	τοῦ	θεοῦ	βάλε	σεαυτὸν	ἐντεῦθεν	κάτω·
the Son	thou be	G3588	of God	G2316	cast	thyselv	from hence	down
G3588	G5207	G1488		G906		G4572	G1782	G2736

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Luke 4:3** (References God): And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)