**Building Core Strength**

**Using Your Freedom to be a Light[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Luke 11:14-54**

**Psalm 138:3** - *On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul*

3 principles to help us use our freedoms well

**I. Beware of the Tendency to Raise Weak Objections to Avoid the Implications of God's Truth**

**Luke 11:14** - *And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed.*

A. The response to Jesus' powerful ministry

1. His miracles are done by the power of Satan

**Luke 11:15** - *But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.”*

2. We need another sign

**Luke 11:16** - *Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven.*

B. Jesus patient answers

1. Your first objection is illogical

**Luke 11:17-18** - *But He knew their thoughts and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?...”*

**2 Timothy 2:24-26** - *The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

2. Your second objection is disingenuous

a. The sign of Jonah

**Luke 11:30** - *For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.*

b. The sign of the Queen of Sheba

**1 Kings 10:6-9** - *Then she said to the king, “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom. Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”*

**Luke 11:31** - *The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*

**II. Make the Lamp of God's Truth a Clear and Compelling Option**

A. The responsibility for those sharing the truth

**Luke 11:33** - *No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light…*

B. The responsibility for those receiving the truth

**Luke 11:34** - *The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.*

**Luke 11:27** - *While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.”*

**Luke 11:28** - *But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”*

**Galatians 5:13** - *For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

**III. Don't Add to the Gospel in Ways that Make it Harder for Others to Come to the Light**

**Luke 11:38** - *When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal.*

A. The gospel is first and foremost about transformation of the heart

**Luke 11:39-40** - *But the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?”*

**Luke 11:45** - *One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, “Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too.”*

**Luke 11:46** - *But He said, “Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.”*

B. Legalism takes away the key to true knowledge

**Luke 11:52** - *"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering.”*

**Luke 11:53-54** - *When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.*

1. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)