



Freedom to Overcome Temptation

Matthew 4: 1-4 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “**If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”*

Opening Prayer

Precious Father, in the of Jesus Christ, and by the Power of the Holy Spirit, I pray that you will strengthen us and keep us from the evil one, in Jesus Name we have prayed, Amen.

Observation

Temptation is a **“trial”** of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, or it is an enticement to sin,. Believers are commanded to pray not to be led into such by forces beyond their own control.

Mark 14: 38 - **Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, **but the flesh is weak.**”

Luke 22:40 When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

We are all commanded to watch and pray against entering into “temptations” by our own carelessness or disobedience; in all such cases God provides **“the way of escape”**

1 Corinthians 10:13 **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man**; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Inspiration

Interestingly Satan's temptations of Eve in the Garden of Eden correspond to those of Jesus in the desert. The test always comes when you are weak, feeble, lacking the power to perform physically. In the case of Eve, Satan came when she was left alone - as also Jesus was tempted in the same manner (alone in the wilderness). The difference between the two personalities is that as for Eve, she didn't have the strength to overcome the temptation as she totally depended on her husband's power instead of God. For Jesus, He knew what to do, pray continuously to His father, and resisted the devil by having the knowledge of the word of God in His life.

Explanation: any medicine has a side effect - as any temptation does.

Application

- 1. The first test pertained to the matter of sonship;** but came to a different format of saying *"If You are the **Son of God**, command that these stones become bread."* This temptation always appeals to physical appetite. In Genesis 3: 1 Satan said to Eve "you may eat of any tree" - as for Jesus, satan told Him in Matthew 4: 3 "You may eat by changing stones to bread".
 - God's will for Jesus was to be hungry in the desert with no food
 - God's will for Eve was to not eat of the tree of life at that time
 - **Question: What is God's will at this time in your life?**
- 2. The second test by Satan appealed to personal display or popularity;** *Matthew 4: 5-7 - Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, 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 shall give His angels charge over you, and In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'* Jesus said to him, *"It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God."*
 - Satan told Eve "You will not die (Ge. 3:4) - in the same manner, he also told Jesus "You will not hurt Your foot (Matthew 4:6)
 - According to the palmist (Ps. 91:11-12) - a person is protected only when he is following the Lord's will. **Deuteronomy 6:16** says that it will not be proper to test God

- **Question: What are you doing to protect your life from dying?** - God's will in your life will be your escaping room - Example of COVID -19 - "Stay Home Command".
3. **Satan's final test related to God's plan for Jesus.** It was and is God's design that Jesus Christ rule the world. Satan showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world with all their splendour. *Matthew 4: 8-11* Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
- **This type of Temptation applies to power or glory**
 - Satan said to Eve "You will be like God (Genesis 3:5) - you cannot be like your parents.
 - Satan spoke to Jesus "You will have all the world's kingdoms (Matthew 4:8-9) - but all the what was created belongs to Jesus
 - **Question: What is it pushing you to acquire more power?**

Exploration

Satan's temptations of people today often fall into the same three categories. 1 *John 2:16* For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; **but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

I have no other God but you!