



## **Week 12 - Beating Temptation**

*Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" 9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written "'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' 11 and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" 12 And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

### **1. Satan is real and he is evil.**

**Satan has very real authority (v4) which is limited by God**

**Demons are most likely to be fallen angels** (Genesis 1:31 and 3:1; 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6) Satan, their chief, is a created but fallen angelic being - (Isa 14:12-15; Job 1:6; and others). Unlike God, he is not omnipresent, omnipotent or omniscient.

**Demons oppose** and try to destroy the work of God, Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power (Job 1:12, Jude 6)

**Demons seem to oppress** in specific ways and their power is limited (eg 'disabling spirit' Luke 13:11, 'spirit of divination' Acts 16:16)

**Angels are in some way involved** with the battle against demonic forces (Daniel 10:12-13)

**God does not tempt us but he does allow temptation.**

*James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.*

**God places a limit around temptation (1 Cor 10:13) and also provides a way of escape.**

*1Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

## **2. Temptation is definite ('sure to come' Luke 17:1)**

**Temptation is not the same as sin (Heb 4:15).**

*Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

**Temptation is tempting!**

## **Your flesh is the part of you that is tempted and it is weak (Matt 26:41)**

What is the 'flesh'? 'Flesh' in scripture either means the physical body or more usually that part of the ego that seeks to satisfy my needs without God.

Romans 8:7 says, "The mind that is set on the **flesh** is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law." That's the hallmark of the flesh - it does not want to obey God.

**We all feel the war within. There is something worse than the war - no war!**

### **3. Temptation comes in different forms to each of us**

Do you know your weaknesses?

**Sins against God** (not giving him worship, rebellion, loving other things more than him)

**Sins against man** (stealing, sexual sin, hatred,

**Sins of commission** (lying, hating, jealousy, pride, occult practice, drunkenness, greed & gluttony)

**Sins of omission** (cowardice, selfishness, prayerlessness, not obeying authority, laziness)

**One of the effects that they can have on a Christian is to make us feel like spiritual things are very unreal and unexciting (John Piper 1984).**

## 4. We must prepare for temptation

*Gal. 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

### What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?

#### Watch & Pray

#### Set radical boundaries & accountability

*Matt. 5:30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.*

Set boundaries & accountability in such a way that if you blow them you're still not yet in sin.

*"What settings are you in when you fall? Avoid them. What props do you have that support your sin? Eliminate them. What people are you usually with? Steer clear of them. There are two equally damning lies Satan wants us to believe: 1) Just once won't hurt. 2) Now that you have ruined your life, you are beyond God's use, and might as well enjoy sinning." Charles Spurgeon*

#### Solitude, fasting, scripture.

#### Rest & Recreation

#### Christ has been through it and he is able to help (Heb 2:18, and 4:15)

*Heb. 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when **tempted**, he is able to help those who are being **tempted**.*

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it." Margaret Thatcher.