

YOUR TEMPTATIONS

The temptation of Jesus Christ in Luke 4 provides perspective and principles that believers can use in our own battle against sin. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus responded to temptation to disobey God by relying on the truth of God's written-down word, the Bible. In the same way, Christians trust and obey God's written Word by the power of the Spirit who indwells them.

1- Pleasures and cravings: God created everything, and at the beginning, He declared all creation "very good." The fall of mankind, through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, corrupted everything with the curse of sin and death. That's the mess we're in. That's why 1John 2:15-17 says, "*do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life - is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*"

This plays out three ways in your life. 1) Worldly pleasure, that's how the world *qualifies* value. It's the craving of the flesh, that says "you need this" thing. 2) Worldly measure, that's how the world *quantifies* value. It's the coveting of the eyes, that says "take a shortcut" to get what you want. 3) Worldly treasure, that's how the world *quarries* value. It's the collecting of the pride of life, that says "test your faith" by expecting God to "bless" you with what you want.

2- To obey or disobey? Worldly philosophies and cultural values are the pride of life that is antagonistic to the one true living God. The flesh says "I must have it" and the world says "go for it" and the devil says "do whatever you must" to get what you want. Even if it means going against God's word and character. The world tallies the value of things, pleasures and positions and possessions and powers. The world taunts what's worth accumulating and flaunting.

What you see and taste and smell and feel and hear, you want. Will you disobey God to get it? It's all been twisted by sin. But God says if you love Me, you won't pursue anything at the expense of disobeying My Word. And the temptation of Jesus shows us how to apply the truth of God's Word to overcome a constant onslaught of lies by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

3- You need Jesus! You can respond to temptation like Jesus did. That's your defense. But first you must receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to be saved from sin's penalty and power. He's your Deliverer, whom you trust and obey. Because Jesus Christ is not simply the great example of resisting sin and temptation. He's the Savior from sin, our Deliverer, who gives His spiritual life. In Matthew 1:21 the angel said "*you will bear a son and you shall call His name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.*" Jesus means Jehovah is salvation.

We need saving because we were born into sin because of the disobedience of Adam. We are rescued from sin because of the obedience of Jesus Christ. Romans 5 affirms that by the disobedience of one man, Adam, sin and death entered the world and we were made sinners. But by the obedience of one man, the Lord Jesus Christ, grace abounds to bring righteousness and justification and eternal life. But only for all who trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

4- It's all by Jesus power! Colin Smith notes, "Just as the consequences of Adam's failure flow to us through union with him, so the consequences of Christ's triumph over temptation will flow to us through our union with Him." We are physically and spiritually in union with our progenitor Adam and we inherit his sin. When we are reborn from above by the Holy Spirit, we come into spiritual union with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, with new spiritual life from Him.

Romans 3:23 says, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*" Sinners are made right with God because Jesus paid the penalty for sin, giving His own body and blood on the cross, as the righteousness of God through faith for all who believe. Do you trust what God says?

1Peter 2:24, "*He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*" Don't kid yourself that your sins aren't so bad. Your sin is why Jesus went to the cross. 1John 3:8 says the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. Would you be rescued and made right? Then you must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Trust Him! □