

Victory Over Temptation

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, return from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them He was hungry. The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: Man does not live on bread alone.” The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And He said to Him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me. So if you worship me, it will be yours.” Jesus answered, “It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.” The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written: He will command His angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered, “It says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.: When the devil had finished all this tempting, He left Him until an opportune time.” (Luke 4:1-13)

The following passages from the Bible speak about how the devil tried to tempt Jesus. The three kinds of temptation that Jesus was exposed to are the same temptations that we are going through. The devil always tries to tempt us and he uses the same points as he used to Jesus.

1- “The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus was hungry. He was fasting and His stomach was hungry. Jesus at that moment, a hundred percent God and a hundred percent man felt hungry as we when our stomach is empty. The hunger represents the physical need that is to be satisfied with material food. Of course, if we are hungry we need to eat to ease the stomach pain. If we are thirsty we need to drink water to satisfy our dry throats. If we feel cold we need to cover our body to get warm. But the devil may use these common needs to harm us. As we set our minds to meet these needs the 24 hours of the day we spend to seek material things, from morning to the night until we go sleep, and even in our dreams our goal is to satisfy our needs. The whole day our mind is occupied with such a theme: to work, to earn money, to find or prepare food, to fix the house, to go to the bank, to go to the school or supermarket, to consult the doctor, to repair the car, etc. Everyday we are totally busy and occupied. Our main task is to fill the space and satisfy the material needs. But, **“It is written: Man does not live on bread alone.”** There is an end to such a style of living. Our life is not supposed to be like the above pattern. Yes, our physical bodies need material things, but what about our souls? It needs to be fed by the word of God. We need to read the word of God in the Bible because it doesn't only give us wisdom but also guidance and direction in life. It satisfies our soul; it takes away our fears and anxiety and calms our insecurity in life. The Bible is the word of God; God Himself speaks to us while we read His words. Let us set a time everyday to read the Bible. In whatever situation let us take our Bible and read its content because while we are reading we will find ourselves relieved from ill and sad feelings. Comfort will reach our hearts as we receive the living word of

God. It will fill up our empty and hungry souls with great and inspiring words, taking away all our frustrations and problems.

2- “The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And He said to Him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me. So if you worship me, it will be yours.” The glorious riches of the world are the greatest temptation that the devil uses to tempt us and to shift us from the glorious riches of God. If we focus on things around us – the beautiful buildings, cars, jewelries, women, men, business, politics, social prestige or high status of living, we will spend all the time of our life trying to gain them. And it will take almost all the space of our mind thinking, struggling or planning how to immediately acquire them. Therefore such things become our idols. We delight to gain them, and we dedicate our life to them, and ultimately we will worship them and their splendor. With such, the result is we already are worshipping the devil by the material of this world. “But Jesus answered, **“It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”** Jesus had come from heaven to save us. He took away our sins and died on the cross for us. He rose again from the dead to give us eternal life. He is our great Saviour and we ought to take Him as our Lord and God. We ought to worship Him alone. He shall be our concern, and our desire shall be to please Him and to serve Him alone. Let us run away from the unworthy things of this world. **“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)**

3- “The devil led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written: He will command His angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus, being the Son of God has the authority over every thing and every creation. The devil was tempting Him to boasts with His authority. That authority is the same authority of God. The lesson that we must learn is this: Whatever good treasures and privileges we receive from God we shall not boasts in them. And it shall not be the cause for us to have pride and to brag. Because **“It says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”** Even for being a child of God is not a reason for us to defy those who oppose us. God is not a God of competition or a God who promotes boasting. But He blesses the humble. Boasting and competition pleases the eyes of the devil but humbleness pleases the eye of God. The scriptures say, **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:6-7)**

My dear and beloved: From the life of our Lord Jesus Christ we learn so much. It teaches us and inspires us to follow His steps and to get away from the ways of Satan. As we follow the ways of the Lord Jesus, we will be like trees planted beside the stream of water, that they bloom and yield their fruits in season. So we pray,

My Prayer: “Father God in heaven, thank You for your SON Jesus Christ who died on the cross to give me eternal life. Draw me near to You, Oh God, and deliver me from the temptation of Satan. Make me always aware of his wrong ways and lies. I want to live by your word for your word is the food for my soul and the light for my feet. I worship You and adore You, In Jesus’ name, Amen!”