



# Church of God Sunday School

## CHRIST'S TEMPTATION: CAN I WIN OVER TEMPTATION?

Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

Soon after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit directed Him to go into the wilderness. Jesus was going to be tempted and tested by Satan, the devil. Satan is the enemy of mankind. He was created by God just to tempt us and give us a choice between doing right and doing wrong. Jesus had to be tempted and tested by Satan, just as we are, so that He could help us when we are tempted and tested.

We are tempted in three ways: through the desires of our flesh, through the desires of our eyes, and through the pride of life. (See 1 John 2:15-16.) James 1:14 says, "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust [desire] . . ."

While Jesus was in the wilderness, He fasted (did not eat) for forty long days and nights; afterward He was very hungry. Satan came to Jesus and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."

Jesus knew He was God's Son. The devil only wanted Jesus to doubt that God would take care of Him. Jesus could easily have turned the stones to bread and satisfied His hunger, but He wanted to please His Father more.

Jesus told Satan, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Our outward man needs food like meat and potatoes, but our inward man, the one that will live forever, needs to be nourished (fed) by the Word of God in order to live.

Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem. He set Jesus on a pinnacle of the temple and said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

The devil himself knows the Scriptures. He misquoted Psalm 91:11-12 to try to get Jesus to test

God's power and mercy to save Him, since He was God's Son. But God does not show off His power just for the devil. We should not get ourselves into situations that are wrong and harmful so that we can prove to ourselves and to others that God can protect us. Jesus did not let Satan talk Him into doing something foolish like that.

Jesus told Satan, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Also, Satan took Jesus up into a very great and high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." The devil is a liar; he has nothing to give anyone but sorrow, heartache, and trouble.

Jesus did not come to this world to possess earthly kingdoms and earthly treasures, and He most certainly did not want to worship the devil! His true desire was to remain faithful to His Father. So He said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." The devil had to leave Jesus after that temptation for a time; he had used every temptation that he could. Jesus defeated him every time.

The angels came and cared for Jesus then. They may have brought Him food for His body, but what was more important was that they brought Him spiritual food. It strengthened and empowered Him.

Can you win over temptation? Yes, you can. You do not have to give in to temptation *if* you have confessed your sins to Jesus and asked Him to forgive you. The Holy Spirit will help you when you are tempted. He will help you fight against Satan, to win over your temptations.

After you get saved, you enter into a battle of right against wrong. The devil will tempt you in many ways. When the devil tempts you to



lie, to cheat, to tell dirty jokes, to talk back to your parents, to be jealous of someone, to be proud, to treat someone mean, or to do anything else that is wrong, the Holy Spirit will help you defeat Satan with the weapon God gave us. That weapon is the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:17 says the Word of God is the *sword* of the Holy Spirit. You need to learn Scriptures and hide them in your heart. Then, when the devil comes to tempt you, you can use God's Word to wound and defeat him. Jesus always used the Scriptures. He said "it is written" and defeated the devil every time.

~~~~~  
**MEMORY VERSE:**

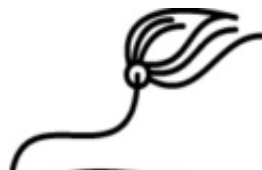
*"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

—Psalm 119:11  
~~~~~

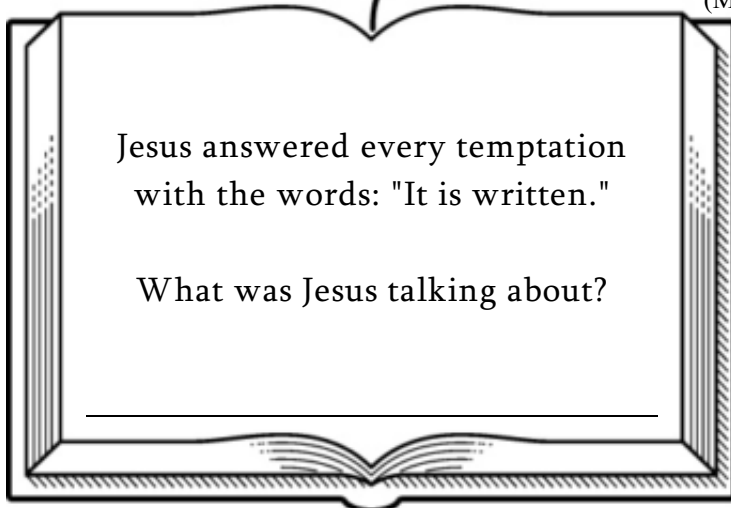
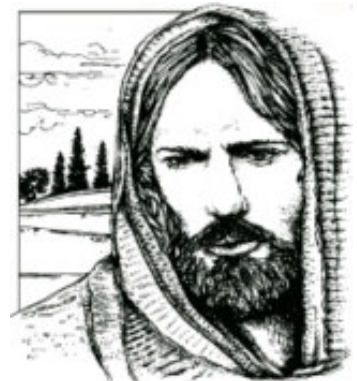
# Temptation

Jesus was tempted by the devil.  
Fill in the blanks to learn what the devil said.

"Command that these  
\_\_\_\_\_ be made  
\_\_\_\_\_."  
(Matthew 4:3)



"Cast thyself  
\_\_\_\_\_."  
(Matthew 4:6)



"Fall \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ me."  
(Matthew 4:9)