

# Fasting

## Part 15

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” (Matthew 4:1-11)*

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ before he got involved in service for God, He was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil. And this is the reality, any work that God would do through His people it will be opposed and counteracted by devil. But the Lord is faithful and this what He declared in His Word to His church. *“And on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16:18a)* The gates of Hades are the hell entrances. And as the church build up, grow and expand it will face the gates of Hades in the form of tactful attacks from Satan and its demons.

And if our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil how much more me and you will be also tried by the schemes of devil. Temptations are there and the tempter Satan is around us, but Jesus gave us a good teaching and shows us the good example how to fight and overcome the devil and its schemes.

**1- Satan may tempt you to do things against the word of God:** After the period of fasting Jesus was hungry therefore, *“The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:3-4)* Satan was telling Jesus to change the stone into bread so he can eat and satisfy his hunger. Jesus is able to do that and he had done lot of miracles. But Jesus did not do what Satan suggested because that is not written in the word of God. Certain times Satan will come and tempt you to do certain things in order that your problems will be solved. But as long as what Devil suggesting against the word then we cannot do that. We cannot steal or fight or cheat or fraud to take our rights. We live by faith on God and His Word. From what we read we understand that we cannot live by our own strength and power. Even when we can do it by our own power and strength this is not the way to achieve the good things in our lives. But we live by faith based on God and on what His Word declares. We should not break the word of God to get what we need because there is no blessing in doing that. As we fast, we repent before God from doing evil and wrong things that contradict His word, and return back to Him, trusting Him and His word that we will receive all our needs from His precious promises to us, *“His divine power has*

*given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” (2Peter 1:3)* Tell Devil when he tempts you, *“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

**2- Be aware Devil may use the Word of God in a wrong application to deceive you:** *“Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matthew 4:5-7)* From this instance we learn that devil was using the Word of God but in wrong application in order to tempt Jesus to take a wrong decision and throw Himself. We should not take the Word of God out of context or twist it’s meaning to suit our purpose. Knowing the things that we are doing is wrong then we should not continue in that direction and putting the Lord into the test. God did not say you can jump because I am going to send my angel to save you, but what God’s Word promises is this: If somebody wants to harm you and throwing you down God would send His angel to protect you. Many of the people they will take wrong steps and later on they will put the responsibility on God. Whatever wrong steps you have taken in the past you must be ready to receive the consequences. Therefore be wise and don’t take God and His Word for granted. If you are about to take a certain decision but you are not sure if it is God’s will, then stop what you are about to do, go into prayer and fasting and wait upon God what He will instruct you to do. Don’t move forward without hearing His word and instructions otherwise you will see yourself jumping and about to crush.

**3- Satan may give material blessing but troubles will follow them:** *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “If you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” (Matthew 4:8-10)* True blessings are from God and He will not add to them troubles. *“The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.” (Proverbs 10:22)* Satan may give material things to you especially if you easily enticed by material things. He will give it to you but He will take you away from God’s service and living life worthy of your calling and of spiritual worship toward God. *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” (Matthew 6:24)* As you see yourself tempted and enticed by material things and money, then refrain from that, repent and come to God in prayer and fasting, asking the Lord to provide for you and to lead you to the right step that you need to take.

**My Dear and Beloved:** As you are passing through much struggle and perplexed that even touching your spiritual life and service unto God, come to Him in prayer and fasting and give Him your burden and receive from Him assurance, peace, strength, revelation, wisdom, right decision, correct step and deliverance as you agree to fast and pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord gives me self-control to obey your word fully and walk in your ways. Lord I put in your mighty hand in prayer and fasting the following struggle \_\_\_\_\_, trusting you that you will deal with such situation properly, and will give me the wisdom to take the right decision, and I will receive victory from you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*