

Overcoming Devil

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned 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, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all 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. ¹⁰For 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.’ (Like 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.

Temptation are there and the tempter Satan is around us but Jesus gave us a good teaching and show us the good example how to fight and overcome the devil and its schemes. Christ died on the cross for our sins; He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life. Eternal life to us and to everyone who believe in His name and follow His steps in life.

As we receive Christ and walk in His ways we have His presence in our lives by the dwelling of the Holy Spirit and in this way we have the victory as the Word of God promises us. **“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)** Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit when Satan came and tempted Him. He is God, He became man, He was filled with the Holy Spirit but still Satan came to tempt Him. How much then we? So we need to be aware of this fact.

The Lord Jesus Christ shared in our humanity and had flesh and blood so that by His death on the cross for our sins He might destroy devil. **“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14)** Jesus became human to sympathize with our weaknesses; He was tempted yet without sin, to teach us how to overcome devil, and to **“Free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Hebrews 4:15)** Temptations are there, arise from our sinful nature and our evil desires, and devil may use such things as doorways to enter our lives to bring destruction and spoil the good things that God had promised to us. But we have the victory of Jesus on the cross, and His Word that teaches us the way to fight the devil, and we have the Holy Spirit who direct us and outline our path.

1- We live by faith on God and His Word: “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) 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 be tempted to trust and to rely on material things in our lives.

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. 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.

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)**

My Dear and Beloved: The Word of God tells us that after these three attempts of temptation, **“The devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” (Matthew 4:11)** Jesus stood firm opposing devil trials to shift Him from doing God’s will and He overcome. You need to be alert. When devil discern you are determine in resisting him, he will go away from you. Therefore surrender your life fully to God, submit yourself to God’s will and obey His commands and in doing so you will be able to overcome and have the victory over devil, and you will be set free as you agree to pray.

My prayer: *Father God I come before You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the death as the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I surrender my life fully to you in doing your will. Lord Jesus help me and strengthen me to overcome temptation and devil’s work this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*