

Victory over Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "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."

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Discussion Questions:

1. As a follower of Christ, when do you feel tempted? When do you think temptation is strongest?
2. As Jesus exemplified, how do we respond to temptations?
3. What is our strongest weapon when faced with the devil's schemes?
4. What is our role as part of the body of Christ in upholding one another to be faithful to our God?

Conclusion

When you next face temptations, remember that Jesus Christ was also tempted. He firmly resolved to **obey the Father**. He **depended upon the Holy Spirit for strength** to face temptation. And He **carefully applied the Word of God to the tempter's challenge**. That is our pattern. Let us go forth and do likewise in following our Lord.