

## Christ's Triumph Over the Tempter

Sermon Delivered on October 27th, 2024

AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

### Text:

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2: Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. 3: And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. 4: And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. 5: And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6: And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7: If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. 8: And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 9: And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: 10: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: 11: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 12: And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 13: And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season. 14: And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

### Introduction

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their **sorceries**, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.” (Rev 9:29:21)

“And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy **sorceries** were all nations deceived.” (Rev 18:23)

These two verses that I have just read come from the last and final book of God's word. It's the book of **Revelation, which deals with the end-time**. In [Matthew 24:12](#), our Lord says that in the last days and the final days “**iniquity** (sin, wickedness) **shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold** (Matt 24:12). Among the many sins that will increase in the last days are **murder, fornication, and theft**. But notice from the two verses I read from the book of Revelation, another sin is mentioned, which is sorcery. Webster dictionary defines the word “**sorcery**” as “*magic; enchantment; witchcraft; divination by the assistance or the supposed assistance of*

*evil spirits, or the power of commanding evil spirits.*” According to God's Word, as the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ draws near, we can expect to see an increase demonic activities. Brothers and sisters, don't we see these kinds of activities becoming more and more widespread even in our day. It's promoted in music, movies, and books. We are seeing God's Word being fulfilled before our very eyes.

In the next few days evil will be glorified. Along with sorcery, witches, familiar spirits, zombies, death and demons will be promoted as something fun and harmless. In the minds of many who celebrate Halloween, Satan and demons and evil are just imaginary things and not to be taken seriously. But we who are true followers of Jesus Christ, we don't make light of these things. We know that **Satan is not a myth**. He is real and is alive and active, seeking to destroy people. We are aware that Satan attacks and assaults people and one of the greatest weapons he uses is to persuade men and women, is **deception**. Satan is **deceiving boys and girls into believing that he does not exist**. And he is succeeding. There are multitudes running around having fun believing Satan's deception.

Halloween today has become strongly associated with a preoccupation with Satan and demons, which the Scripture and the church have always warned against. Sadly, many even professing adult Christians are deceived. But there is something demonic that underlies Halloween. Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan said, *“I'm glad that Christian parents let their children worship the devil at least one night out of the year.”* The founder of the Church of Satan intentionally thanking Christian parents for dressing up their children, changing their identity, sacrificing spiritually.

Another powerful weapon that Satan uses to ruin people is **temptation**. Temptation is a constant reality from the beginning. **Adam and Eve** were tempted in the garden. **Everyone** faces temptation. Even **the Son of God** was tempted by Satan. Before our Lord ever began His earthly ministry, as soon as He was declared the Son of God at His baptism, He was severely tempted by Satan for forty days in the wilderness.

Satan is a powerful enemy. He is dangerous and crafty. How do we defend ourselves against his attacks? I am glad, we have One who has gone before us and withstood the onslaught and came out victorious and we can learn from His example. This morning considers with me the **Adversary**, the **Assault**, and the **Answer**.

### **I - The Adversary**

There are **three distinct names** given to the Adversary in these temptations. In the gospel according to [Mark](#), he is called **Satan**, in [Luke](#) he is called the **devil**, and in [Matthew](#) he is called the **tempter**. All these titles are **very descriptive of who our adversary is and what he does**.

[Mark 1:13](#) And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of **Satan**; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2: Being forty days tempted of **the devil**. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2: And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3: And when **the tempter** came to him ...

**Satan** is a word signifying an **adversary**, an **enemy**, one who lies in wait for another.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

**Devil** means a **false accuser** or **slanderer**. He accuses God and men. He accuses God before man and then accuses men before God.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which **accused them before our God day and night**.

The title “**Tempter**” is self-explanatory. He **tempts**. He **solicits** people to **do evil**. He **entices** them to fall. Temptation is his business and work. Satan is given over and wholly to it. He takes a delight in it. He loves to see men and women; boys and girls give in to temptation.

This is the character of our great adversary. So, I don't understand why anyone would dress up like these characters unless he is fascinated with evil and darkness.

## II - The Assault

Satan assaulted our Lord three times in this passage by means of temptations.

### 1. The First Temptation

**How does Satan initiate the temptation?** His approach has not changed. He comes to Jesus the same way he approached Eve back in Genesis. The serpent approached Eve **with a question casting doubt to what God has said**.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, **Yea, hath God said**, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2: And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4: And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:**

Now he approached our Lord casting doubt to what the Father has said.

Luke 4:3 And the devil said unto him, **If** thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

Satan initiated his temptation by **raising questions to the trustworthiness of the Word of God**. This is exactly the same place where he attacked our first parents.

Remember this is immediately after Christ's baptism where we are told that the Father declared Him to be the Son of God. And here we see Satan assaults Jesus' faith and confidence in the Word of God. *"Are you really the Son of God? If you are the Son of God why are you in this wilderness? Why are you alone? Why are you starving? Is this the way God treats His son? And if you really are the Son of God, then turn these stone into bread."*

## **2. The Second Temptation**

Luke 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7: If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

In this second temptation Satan is offering our Lord shortcut to the crown. What Satan is essentially saying is, *"If you are the Son of God, why do you have to suffer in order to be King? Why do you have to suffer on the cross in order to be crowned King? There is an easier way to the crown. I can give it to you without humiliation, without suffering, without the cross, without shedding your blood, and without dying."*

Satan hates the cross because he knows that the cross would bring victory to Jesus and to all that are in Jesus. He knows that through the cross he will be crushed. He will be destroyed.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

And so, he comes with this temptation to divert Christ away from the cross.

Furthermore, in this temptation, Satan is offering Jesus' shortcut to glory by tempting Him to break the first commandment.

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, 2: I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Only God is to be worshipped and yet Satan is calling our Lord to worship him. Satan always wanted to be worshipped. He wanted to be like God so he would get all the worship that only God deserves.

## **3. The Third Temptation**

Luke 4:9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: 10: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: 11: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan knows the Bible. Here he quotes ...

Psalm 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12: They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

In this temptation, what Satan is saying is, *“If You are really the Son of God and You really believe the Scriptures, then jump! Let’s see if the Your Father cares for You! Let’s see if He will send His angels to guard and protect You!”*

But notice how the devil deleted or left out the phrase *“in all your ways.”* The devil misapplies it and makes it mean presumptuous reliance on God. It is true that God promises to keep and protect His children but **only when they are in the will of God**. He promised to watch over those who are in His ways. God’s protection is promised **only if we stay under the umbrella of His protection**. God provides the umbrella but if you move outside of that umbrella, you will get wet and you are on your own.

When all our ways are in God's will, we can claim the promise of His angels guarding over us, but if we are walking in willful sin and spiritual darkness, the domain of Satan, we cannot expect God to guard us in our wayward and rebellious way!

### III - The Answer

How did our Lord respond to the devil’s assaults? Let’s look at how our Lord responded to the three temptations.

Our Lord’s response to the first temptation—*turn this stone into bread*.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Our Lord wisely refused to enter into any debate and discussion with Satan and instead He quoted from the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

How about the second temptation—*If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine*, how did our Lord respond?

Luke 4:6 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Again, our Lord did not argue with Satan about who owned the world and who has the power and authority to grant it, instead He replied, *“It is written”* and then quoted Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20.

Now, look at our Lord's response to the Satan's third temptation—to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple.

[Luke 4:12](#) And Jesus answering said unto him, *It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

Our Lord knows what the enemy is doing! He counters Satan's temptation with Scripture. He replies to Satan, "[It is written](#)", "[It is said.](#)" In other words, "*it is recorded in the Scripture.*" Our Lord Jesus resorts to the living and powerful Word of God. He has a high regard for the Word of God. He appeals to what was written in the Scriptures. "[It is written](#)" means - "*It has been written and stands written.*" The Scripture is trustworthy, and it shall stand forever.

This is how we should respond any time we are tempted to sin. We must use the Scripture. We must know the Scripture. We must quote the Scripture. But we must understand that **our Lord is not simply quoting the Scripture, He is not merely quoting His memory verses, He is obeying the Scripture.** What our Lord is saying to the enemy is that life does not consist of and preserved by bread alone. The preservation of life does not depend upon bread alone. Man is to live a life of faith in and dependence on God. So, our Lord in His response to Satan assault, focuses on the trustworthiness of and obedience to the Word of God.

Our Lord defeated our enemy. He overcame His temptations. When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him.

[Luke 4:13](#) And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Jesus Christ is victorious. I love how this story ends. After Jesus withstands all of temptations of Satan and Satan leaves, the first thing that happens is that "[the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him \(Matthew 4:11\).](#)" The angels of God appears and ministers unto Him. God shows the trustworthiness of His own Word. The angels were there all the time. Jesus did not have to jump from the temple. And the Word of God was fulfilled when the angels came and minister to Him.

## Closing Applications

### 1. Temptation is Common to All

Temptation is universal. No one is exempt from temptation. If Jesus Christ the Son of God was tempted when He was on earth, surely the children of God are not exempted from temptation.

[1 Corinthians 10:12](#) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. [13:](#) There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

[Hebrews 4:15](#) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

### 2. Temptation is Not Sin

As Frederick P. Wood said this, "*Temptation is not sin! It is the call to battle!*"

As J. Wilbur Chapman explained “*Temptation is the tempter looking through the key-hole into the room where you are living; sin is your drawing back the bolt and making it possible for him to enter.*”

We need to understand that to be tempted may cause us much pain and sorrow, but it is not sin. It is only sin when we yield to it. Temptation is possible without sin. Our Lord was tempted, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus Christ has gone through every temptation, just in the same way as we have, and yet who is without sin.

*Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;  
Each victory will help you some other to win;  
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue,  
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.*

### **3. Temptation Can Be Resisted**

Today, Satan tempts us in the same area in which Jesus was tempted. But we don't have to yield to temptation. How are we to resist temptation? How are we overcome the deeds of the flesh? Our Lord gives us a clear pattern of how to experience victory in times of temptation. Jesus' pattern for us to follow is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Word! This account shows that **overcoming Satan's temptations depends upon knowing God's Word**. Our Lord was able to overcome the enemy's temptation, **not because He was the Son of God but because He was filled of the Spirit and was filled with the Word of God!**

Are you filled? Are you growing in knowledge of the Word of God? Are you memorizing God's Word? Are you diligently in reading, memorizing, meditating, and studying God's Word? The Word is the sword of the Spirit. We can never fight a good fight, if we do not use it as our principal weapon. The Word is the lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. So, fill your mind with the Word of God. As Vance Havner said, “*An empty heart is an invitation to the devil.*”

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**AMEN!**