

TRIUMPH OVER TEMPTATIONS!

Matthew 4:1-11

I. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST!

Many wonder, "Why did our Lord have to face forty days of trial and temptation in the wilderness? Matthew 4:1-3. Satan likes to hit us when we are at our weakest. Jesus in His temptation identified with humanity: Hebrews 4:15. There is a difference between being tempted and being tested. Our God tests His children, Satan tempts all of us. It was in Jesus temptation that we see Him succeed where Adam failed: Romans 5:15-19. FACING TEMPTATION!

Not much is said about those forty days except that our Lord fasted: Matthew 4:1-2. Satan tempts us with our bodily needs that are natural desires our God has given us. James 1:12-15. Our Lord Jesus, in the wilderness was both tested and tempted. Our God tests us through trials to help develop godly character. Jesus was tempted by the devil three times after the forty day fast: Matthew 4:3; Matthew 4:5-6; Matthew 4:8-9. We also are tempted by the devil: 1 Corinthians 10:13. Our Lord Jesus reveals the three things we need to overcome in our times of temptation.

II. WE NEED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

When our Lord went into the wilderness it was in the power of the Spirit of God that He went. We cannot survive our times in the wilderness without the power of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:3; Ephesians 6:12-18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

III. WE NEED THE WORD OF GOD!

When our Lord faced temptation He answered with the Word of God. There are some temptations that the Bible tells us to flee from: 2 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 10:14; Galatians 6:6-11; 2 Timothy 2:22. As we submit to God and resist the devil he will flee from us: James 4:7. Jesus quoted Scripture but so did Satan: Matthew 4:3-6.

IV. WE MUST HAVE SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT!

This is the area we usually fail in. Everything hinges on our commitment to obey what we know from God's Word regardless of the temptations life will bring to us. Jesus not only quoted Scripture, He was committed to obeying the Scripture He quoted. James 1:22-25; James 4:7; Luke 4:11. We need to prepare for Satan's attacks: Psalm 119:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:15.

V. THREE WAYS OF TEMPTATION!

1 John 2:15-17. Jesus was tempted three times in three different ways. The lusts of the flesh: Matthew 4:2-3. The lusts of the eyes: Matthew 4:8-9. The pride of life: Matthew 4:5-6. Adam and Eve were tempted the same way: Genesis 3:6. Temptation in all its forms will fall into these three categories.