

**The Secret to Resisting Temptation**  
**Series: Luke**  
**September 17, 2017      Pastor Bill Bump**

There is a struggle going on for control of our hearts. Satan would deliberately plunge us into despair and death, but Jesus seeks to lift us up to hope and eternal life. Whom do we allow to take control?

*John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil.

*Hebrews 4:15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.*

We want to learn from Jesus' experience and allow Him to lead us to spiritual victory.

Jesus' experience:

1. Satan attacked Jesus and sought to gain control of His life.

*Luke 4:1-2 <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.*

If Jesus could be tempted, then we will never become so spiritually mature that we won't be tempted to do wrong.

*1 Corinthians 10:12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

The fact that Jesus was tempted tells us that temptation itself, is not a sin. Sin occurs when we give in to the temptation.

Most temptation comes from our own sinful nature, which is attracted to the sinful pleasures that Satan has created.

James 1:13-14 <sup>13</sup> *And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else.*  
<sup>14</sup> *Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.*

## 2. The temptation of pleasure

Luke 4:3-4 <sup>3</sup> *Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."*

<sup>4</sup> *But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"*

Maturity has been defined as the ability to postpone pleasure. But, Satan tempts us with immediate gratification.

The issue, therefore, is not bread, but trust, depending on God to provide in His own way and time.

## 3. The temptation of power

Luke 4:5-7 <sup>5</sup> *Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> I will give it all to you if you will worship me."*

Satan is temporarily the prince of this age.

Satan was testing Jesus' faith in God as the supreme moral ruler of the universe.

Jesus' response to Satan:

Luke 4:8 *Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"*

Deuteronomy 6:13 *You must fear the Lord your God and serve him. When you take an oath, you must use only his name.*

## 4. The temptation of popularity

Luke 4:9-12 <sup>9</sup> *Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! <sup>10</sup> For the Scriptures say, 'He will order*

*his angels to protect and guard you. <sup>11</sup> And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."*

*<sup>12</sup> Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"*

Satan sought to tempt Jesus to test God rather than trust Him.

Deuteronomy 6:16a *You must not test the Lord your God...*

Faith does not take senseless leaps into the unknown and dare God to respond.

Lessons that help us to be victorious over temptations:

1. Be inspired by the victory of Jesus.

James 4:7 *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Galatians 5:16 *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

1 John 5:4 *For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

2. Understand the devastating consequences of sin.

3. Know and take advantage of the Word of God.

Psalm 119:11 *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

4. Pray daily for the filling of the Holy Spirit to reinforce you.

5. Know and protect your areas of weakness.

6. Value character more than reputation.

Psalm 25:21 *May integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you.*

Character is who you are when nobody's looking.

7. Temptation is ever-present in our lives.

Luke 4:13 *When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.*

### Conclusion

Jesus met each temptation with the same resources we have today: the power of the Holy Spirit and Word of God.

Satan will whisper one of two lies to us:

1. "One sin won't matter."

But, it matters. It can be lethal.

2. "You've gone too far. You're beyond the point where God can forgive you."

But, that's not true. The love of God is greater than any of our sins, and if we come to Him in repentance, He will forgive us.