



Defeating Satan

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

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"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, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him" (Matthew 4:1-11).

Life is not just plain black and white but rather made up of an entire spectrum of colours where the devil lurks around every shade of it trying to trap people through deception, temptations and trials. Nobody, not even Jesus was exempt from Satanic attacks. The scripture is clear that everyone that will live a godly life will suffer persecution (an aspect of temptation). However, the fact that Jesus overcame, and has given that victory to all believers gives tremendous encouragement to us of overcoming as well, if we follow in His steps.

- 1) Life in the Spirit is the sure route to overcoming. It is interesting to read "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (vs 1). God knows the future that we do not, and submitting to the leadership of the Holy Spirit is our best safeguard from defeat.
- 2) The devil waited till the end of the fast, when Jesus was hungry before tempting Him about food. Satan specialises in exploiting human weaknesses in temptation. If a person wants power, the devil will exploit the situation to prof-

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fer counterfeit power, that actually enslaves the person in demonic bondage, and away from the freedom that could have been gained from true spiritual power from God.

- 3) In all the temptations, Jesus triumphed over Satan by the Word of God. Good personal knowledge of God's word is the only effective weapon against Satan. You will only be able to say to Satan, as Jesus did, "It is written" if you spend quality time to peruse the scriptures and understand what is written.
- 4) He started the first two temptations by casting doubt on the identity of Jesus "If thou be the Son of God...." Satan must have heard it when God declared at Jesus's baptism "this is my beloved son". Jesus did not use that experience to fight Satan but rather, the word of God. The word of God is far superior to any human experience in fighting Satan.
- 5) Satan never gives up. When he could not get Jesus to fall to the temptation of food, he pulled another trick out of his bag in the area of showmanship - tempting Jesus to jump down from the pinnacle of the temple. In doing so, he twisted the scriptures about divine protection. It is only good knowledge of the truth that enables a person to detect the lies of the devil.
- 6) Failing that, Satan tried another one - that of offering Jesus a cheap means of accomplishing His goal - that of gaining a crown without paying the price of bearing the cross. The lure of the easy, can deprive people of the route to true success. Again, Jesus defeated Satan with scriptures.
- 7) Satan, having exhausted his tricks, left Jesus for a while, to think of new tricks and wait for another opportune time to launch further attacks. In the meantime, angels came and ministered to Jesus.

Be vigilant to overcome when Satan tempts.