

A dramatic landscape featuring a wooden cross standing on a rocky cliff. A waterfall cascades down the cliff face. The sky is a vibrant golden yellow, filled with clouds and several birds in flight. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong glow and lens flare effects.

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

LUKE 4:1-13

The Devil's Strategy of Temptation

1. **Timing** – The Devil waits for the prime opportunity to strike – especially at your weakest moments.
2. **Challenging God's Authority to Provide** – Attempting to create doubt that God is able to provide for all of your needs.
3. **Misrepresenting His Authority and Power** – Trying to manipulate you into believing that he (Devil) has more power than God.
4. **Test God's Power and Sovereignty** – create doubt to where you will attempt to put God to the test in place of obedience

Timing

◆ **Luke 4:1-2** - And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

When I am Weak I am Strong

- ◆ **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** - ⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Challenging God's Authority to Provide

◆ **Luke 4:3-4** - ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”

Jesus Understands Our Weaknesses

- ◆ **Follow the example of Jesus here in Scripture** – Stand strong know Jesus understands your temptation and wants to help you resist the devil.
- ◆ **Hebrews 4:15-16** - ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus Rebukes Devil With Scripture

- ◆ **Follow the Example of Jesus – Rebuke the Devil with Scripture**
- ◆ **Deuteronomy 8:3** - ³ So he humbled you and allowed you to be hungry. Then he fed you manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known before, in order to teach you that **man does not live by bread alone**, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
- ◆ Jesus teaches us that satisfying a need for food (or other need) is not as important as trusting and obeying God.

Misrepresenting His Authority and Power

◇ Luke 4:5-8:

⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.’”

Devil Does Not Have the Power

- ◆ **The Devil cannot grant his promise of Power – It is God who establishes the kingdoms.**
- ◆ **Daniel 2:21** - He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...
- ◆ **Romans 13:1** - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Devil – Father of Lies

◆ **John 8:44** - ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the Devil, and you want to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and did not remain standing in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks from what is his, because he is a liar and the father of lying.

Jesus Chose to Honor God

- ◆ **Follow the Example of Jesus**
- ◆ Jesus chose to honor the 1st Commandment
- ◆ **Exodus 20:3** - ³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

Rebuke the Devil With Scripture

- ◆ **Follow the Example of Jesus**
- ◆ **Jesus rebukes the Devil with Scripture – Deuteronomy 6:13 and 1 Samuel 7:13**
- ◆ **Deuteronomy 6:13** - ¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.
- ◆ **1 Samuel 7:13** - ³ And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and **direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only**, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”

God Will Never Forget You

◆ Isaiah 49:15-16:

¹⁵ Can a woman forget her nursing child
and not show mercy to the son from her womb?
Even if these women could forget,
I will never forget you.

¹⁶ Look, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.
Your walls are never out of my sight.

Test God's Power and Sovereignty

◆ Luke 4:9-12:

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

¹¹ and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.

Devil Attempts to Twist Scriptures

◆ Psalms 91:11-12:

¹¹ Yes, he will give a command to his angels concerning you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² They will lift you up in their hands,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Rebuke the Devil With Scripture

- ◆ **Follow the Example of Jesus**
- ◆ Jesus confronts the Devil with Deuteronomy 6:16
- ◆ Deuteronomy 6:16 - ¹⁶ Do not put the Lord your God to the test the way you tested him at Massah.

Bring the Right Weapon to Battle

- ◆ **Ephesians 6:17** - ¹⁷ Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- ◆ **Hebrews 4:12** - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Satan Does Not Give Up – Waiting for Next Opportunity

◆ **Luke 4:13** - ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

God is Faithful

◆ **1 Corinthians 10:12-13** - ¹² So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.