

Temptation

In our reading from Luke's Gospel we see that just after Jesus had been baptized, he was full of the Holy Spirit, and he was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and then was tempted by the devil to disobey God. Then Jesus, having faced these temptations and overcome them, left the wilderness and began his ministry in the power of the Spirit.

I imagine that the devil was hoping that Jesus would only consider his uncomfortable immediate situation of fasting in the desert and want relief from that, rather than thinking about the long-term situation of his eternal work.

This brings me to the point of temptation - and that is to draw us away from God. The devil will do his best to draw us away from God because he doesn't want us in any sort of relationship with God and will do all sorts of things to stop us praying, worshipping, reading God's Word, meeting with other Christians.

Temptation is very real and powerful and is part of life. Do not think that you are above being tempted, because you are not, but when we stand up to temptation in the power of God, Satan will flee.

So, how do we withstand temptation?

- By acknowledging that we are weak and that our salvation is in Jesus alone.
- By asking God to help us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- By remembering what God has instructed us to do through reading the Bible.
- By taking time out to think about the consequences of our actions before we do it.
- By talking to someone about what is happening
- By walking away from it.

God has given us what we need to withstand the temptations we experience, but we must know Scripture and know how to stand in the authority and protection God has given us.

God will help us as we turn to Him and His Word – and in the name of Jesus, Satan will be defeated.