

# Handling Life's Temptations (Part 1)

Thursday, August 17, 2006

*Message Title "Handling Life's Temptations Pt.*

*by Pastor Gerald Mandrell*

*August 2006*

*© 2007 All rights reserved*

## Matt 4:1-11

1 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.*

# Handling Life's Temptations (Part 1)

Thursday, August 17, 2006

- It's important for you to know that God has given you power over every temptation that the enemy puts before you.
- You should not feel guilty that you are tempted (everyone is tempted); for the sin comes when you yield to the temptation.
- Jesus overcame everything that the world had to offer Him. And, by Him overcoming, we are given that same power to overcome as we, by faith, appropriate into our lives the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
- Before Jesus began His earthly ministry, He was led by the Holy Ghost into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. It's amazing that before the greatest ministry that ever was began on earth, the greatest temptation had to be conquered.
- Therefore, we should be encouraged that whenever we receive the greatest resistance from our flesh or from the enemy of our souls, by way of temptation, if we abstain and yield to the leading of the Spirit of God, then the greater our spiritual power and blessing will be.
- In fighting our spiritual battles, if you do not know how to deal with the temptations of life, then your battle is already lost. You must understand that the devil is tricky, cunning, sly, and patient, knowing just when to tempt you and knowing what to tempt you with.
- The answer to us overcoming the temptation of the enemy and our flesh is to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted of the devil. I believe that He knew what was coming; therefore, He chose to fast for forty days and nights.
- The scripture did not state that He was commanded to fast, but godly wisdom told Him that the best way to overcome temptation is to self-discipline oneself with fasting.
- If He never disciplined Himself with fasting, then his flesh would have been more difficult to handle when temptation came.
- So, tonight, I want to pull out a few nuggets that can be learned from the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness that I believe will be essential in helping you to deal with life's battles.

# Handling Life's Temptations (Part 1)

Thursday, August 17, 2006

- I want to emphasize the point that temptation first comes to cause you to question your identity. In verses 3 and 6, Satan uses the expression 'If thou be the Son of God'. In chapter 3, verses 16 and 17, it states, "*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*"
- Our identity is established by God, our Creator, not by Satan or this world. The proclamation by God was not just a personal proclamation to Jesus, but it was a public proclamation of validation. Therefore, I am not made valid by my physical ability to sustain my flesh, but by what God have spoken into my life.
- So, the primary enticement of temptation calls you to question your relationship and identity with God. Learn to seek validation only from God and not from the world.
- When you seek validation from the world, then you are defined by that which you seek validation from. Once we are born again and filled with the Spirit, we know who we are by the Spirit of God that dwells on the inside of us.
- It's necessary to understand where temptation comes from. I believe that the portal that makes temptation so enticing to many of people is the level of love that we have for the world and worldly things. The more you are attracted by the sinful pleasures of the world, the easier it is for you to be tempted by the things of the world.
- James states:

## James 1:12-17

*2 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

*13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for **God cannot be tempted with evil**, neither tempteth he any man:*

# Handling Life's Temptations (Part 1)

Thursday, August 17, 2006

14 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 *Do not err, my beloved brethren.*

17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

- There is a specific blessing that is made available to us if we endure temptations. James calls it the crown of life. Enduring temptation is a sign of your dependence upon the strength of God that lies within you.
- Tempting is different from testing. Temptation entices you (the work of subtlety and trickery) to sin; testing is proving (strengthening and confirming) what is on the inside of you. Temptation's purpose and end result is to cause you to fall (just as Satan's last inducement to Jesus to fall down and worship him); testing's purpose is more for your glory, faith, and encouragement to cause you to glorify God for His presence abiding within a yielded life.
- God cannot be tempted, nor does He tempt anyone. This is even one indicator that you can use to measure the trial that you may encounter. If what's before you causes you to sin against God, another person, or yourself, know assuredly that it is a temptation.
- Temptation can cause you to err because of the misrecognition of the thing that is before you. If you don't know the source of what is before you, then your failure to recognize it may be dangerous.
- God gives that which is good and matured. His blessings to you don't flip-flop; on today, off tomorrow. His promises are in Him, yea and amen.
- That which the tempter tempts you with may look good, but its nature is evil. He never tempts you with good, nor does he tempt you to do good. Good is not a part of his nature.

# Handling Life's Temptations (Part 1)

Thursday, August 17, 2006

- So, in closing, we have learned; (1) Temptation is of the devil; (2) Being born again, we have power over temptation; (3) Self discipline that comes from fasting gives us power over temptation; (4) Our validation should come from God, not the world; (5) Temptation is an indication of a greater blessing following; (6) God's gifts to us are good and matured; and (7) God's desire is for us to be blessed and not for us to fall into sin.