



Matthew 4 (NIV)

1 Then Jesus was <u>led</u> by the <u>Spirit</u> into the wilderness to be <u>tempted</u> by the <u>devil</u>.



- At His Baptism, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit

 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. (Matthew 3:16 NIV)
- In order to experience life as a human, Jesus limited the use of His divine attributes

(Philippians 2:5-8)

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5-8 NIV)

 He chose to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit for His ministry

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. (Luke 5:17 NIV)

- Just as Jesus "walked with the Spirit", we can
 - Yield to His control
 - Allow Him to exert His influence over us
 - Follow the Spirit's lead
 - Rely on Him to guide us in thought, word & deed
 - Bear the fruit the Spirit produces
- To walk in the Spirit is the opposite of resisting Him or grieving Him

THE TEMPTATION OF IESUS

Matt. 4:1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

- Jesus' mission was now clear to Him
- He had not come to earth as Israel's Conquering King but as her Suffering Servant
- He needed time with His Father to prepare for that role & face His opposition, Satan himself
- The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted because God wanted His Son & His followers to understand His messianic mission

The Temptation of Jesus

- Satan's purpose was to cause Jesus to sin against His Father's will for Him
- If successful, Jesus' redemptive work would have been impossible
- Only a sinless man could bear the sins of sinful men as their substitute
- In tempting Jesus, Satan used the same tactics as he used against Adam & Eve & uses against us today (1 Jn 2:15-17)

The Temptation of Jesus

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17 NIV)

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2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."



Lust of the Flesh

- Every human being is born of the flesh
- Desires that arise from the fact that we are earth-bound, fleshly creatures are not sins in themselves
- We desire food, water, shelter, pleasure & comfort
- God created us with those desires
- Desires that arise from being fleshly creatures in a fallen world can quickly become sinful lusts

Lust of the Flesh

- When fleshly desires rule us, taking priority over God's will, they cause us to violate God's righteousness
- They become lusts
- If we follow our lust of the flesh, we cannot do the will of God
- Just as Jesus responded to Satan, we must not allow the lust of our flesh to control our lives

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5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test."



- The pride of life is anything that temps us with the rewards "of the world"
- Such pride leads to arrogance, flamboyance, pride in self, presumption & boasting
- John makes it clear that anything that produces the pride of life comes from a love of the world

(1 John 2:15)

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. (1 John 2:15 N IV)

 Anything that exalts us above our station & offers the illusion of God-like qualities, in which we boast in arrogance & worldly wisdom is pride of life

- Satan dared Jesus to cast Himself from the roof of the Temple in order to prove that He was the Messiah
- This would be a grandiose display of power that was not in the will of God or His plan for the redemption of mankind
- Jesus resisted the devil & used the Word of God to ensure victory over him

- Perhaps Satan's most evil temptation is the pride of life,
 the very sin that resulted in Satan's expulsion from heaven
- He desired to be God, not to be a servant of God (Isaiah 14:12-15)
- The arrogant boasting which constitutes the pride of life motivates the other two lusts as it seeks to elevate itself above all others & fulfill all personal desires

- It is the root cause of strife in families, churches & nations
- It exalts the self in direct contradiction to Jesus' statement that those who would follow Him must take up their cross (an instrument of death) & deny themselves
- The pride of life stands in our way if we truly seek to be servants of God
- It is the arrogance that separates us from others & limits our effectiveness in the kingdom

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8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.



- Lust of the eyes is the sinful desire to possess what we see or to have those things which have visual appeal
- This coveting of money, possessions, or other physical things is not from God, but from the world around us
- The Ten Commandments addressed the lust of the eyes in its prohibition against coveting
- Satan uses the lust of the eyes as one avenue of temptation

- Part of the reason Eve listened to the serpent in the Garden was that she looked at the forbidden fruit & saw that it was "pleasing to the eye" (Genesis 3:6)
- Satan tried a similar tactic on Jesus
- Satan attempted to tempt Jesus to covet earthly power
- He promised to give them to Jesus—for a price

- Jesus did not succumb to the lust of the eyes & Satan was defeated
- We must follow Jesus' example & in the power of the Holy Spirit, resist the lust of the eyes
- The world is full of "eye candy," glamor & gaudiness
- Materialism beckons with its promise of happiness & fulfillment

- A media-saturated society bombards us with advertising campaigns that might as well say, "Covet this!"
- Our goal is not to keep up with the Joneses or to surround ourselves with the trappings of glittering magnificence
- Instead, our goal is
- "to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings"

 (Philippians 3:10 NIV)

Main Idea

Just as Jesus was driven by eternity, we can face our daily battle with the temptations of this world with Jesus as our example as we walk in the Spirit.

Question?

Do you rely on the Word of God and the Holy Spirt each day to motivate you to keep your eyes on your eternal reward and not on the things of this world?



