



## *\*The Role of the Holy Spirit Plays in our Tug of War.*

*\*Matthew 3:16* When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

*\*Matthew 4:1* Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

### **1. What do you need to know when you go from the water of baptism to the fire of temptation?**

*Matthew 3:16* Right after heaven opened up Jesus is led to a place where hell will open up.

**God doesn't tempt humanity. (James 1:13)** He will lead you to places where you may be tested.

**Often, our greatest temptation comes when our physical flesh is struggling, tired, or hungry.**

**Jesus is anointed as the spirit of righteousness to being attacked.**

### **2. Can we experience something other than guilt from our times of temptation?**

*\*Hebrews 2:17* Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

**Jesus suffered and was tempted in order to help us when we face temptation.**

**Jesus succeeds** where humanity fails. Put your trust in Jesus.

**YES, we can aid others** in their temptations, but there are even more insights that will encourage you.

## *\*The Three Tugs of the Flesh*

*\*Matthew 4:3* Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." **4** But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

**5** Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone."

**7** Jesus said to him, "It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God."

**8** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

**10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."

**11** Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Temptation: When the tempter comes**, the scripture doesn't say if the tempter but when. Temptation comes to tug on our natural needs into believing it's a life-or-death situation.

Jesus was in a devout frame of mind during the 40 days of fasting.

The tempter wanted to move Jesus' mindset to the cravings of the flesh. (So, the Devil came when Jesus was extremely hungry)

Jesus used the weapon that everyone can use when you are all alone. The Word of God is the weapon that defeats the devil.

2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Temptation: This is the tug of an artificial crisis.** If you are the son of God, this is the second time the devil uses this statement.

Notice it is the devil who took Jesus to this location. The location plays a role in the temptation. It's at the pinnacle of the temple that Jesus is asked to prove He is the son of God.

Notice, too, that the devil is now quoting scripture to Jesus. The enemy will twist the Word of God.

\*Psalm 91:11-12 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands, they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Sadly, many are twisting and misquoting scripture today, and people are falling into temptation.

\*Jesus quotes Deut. 6:16 "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah. (Exodus 17:1-7) The story of the people of Israel who were angry at Moses and God because they were thirsty and asking if God would take care of them. God commands Moses to strike the rock. (Was Israel as a whole tempted to believe that God wouldn't take care of them?)

\*Anytime we deny God's love for us or demand He do something to prove His love, we are spiritually losing the tug of war.

3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Temptation: The shortcut tugs** and removes God and takes honor away from God. This is a temptation that comes through the lust of the eyes. If you see it (sex, money, power, position), you will want it.

The devil declared, "All these things I will give you." Jesus never said to the devil they are not yours to give. The devil has a period of reign over the world. It will be short-lived compared to eternity. For the temptation to be real, the devil must have had the author offer Jesus kingdoms and governments. He wouldn't have to die for the world to believe in Him.

Deut. 6:13 Jesus draws a second time from Deuteronomy, saying to declare worship and serve the Lord only.

Who will you worship in 2024, and who will you serve?