

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**Fighting Temptation**  
**Luke 4:1-13**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / January 17, 2021*

**I. Be Filled with the Spirit**

**Luke 4:1** “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.”

In His humanity, He did the same thing God calls us to do – be filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit.

**[Read Galatians 5:13-25]**

The Spirit will lead us into uncomfortable places where He wants us to produce exceptionally uncommon fruit that nobody else is bringing to that situation.

The Spirit of God in us can do something radically different through us that is unrelated to our circumstances. That’s why we don’t need Christians producing the same toxic fruit as everyone else.

**II. Be Full of God’s Word**

The Son of God Himself didn’t just try to argue with these temptations. He used God’s Word every time! (Luke 4:4, 8, 12)

Do you know God’s Word well enough to use it down in the trenches of the everyday battles that you face?

Jesus was fully God and fully man, but He still didn’t think He could handle life without knowing Scripture.

You have to know what God’s Word says in the very moment of your temptation! What are you reading, memorizing, and meditating on most? That’s going to shape what you think and how you respond to everything going on around you.

So often, the reason we fail to stand and resist temptation is because we fail to bring a specific promise from God with us into the battle.

“A nebulous sense that God is somehow working to help us is not such a clear channel for the Holy Spirit’s power as when we have a clear, sharp sight of a specific promise.”

~ John Piper, *Reading the Bible Supernaturally*

When you make time to sit with God’s Word every morning or evening and you read it slowly, mark it up, and pray it in, you’re doing more than just accumulating information. You’re building an arsenal for facing temptation as you lay hold of the promises of God and make them yours.

An example of fighting anxiety with the power of a specific promise:

**Matthew 6:31-32** “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and **your heavenly Father knows** that you need them all.”

Even one specific word or promise from God can make you so much more effective in fighting temptation.

One of the biggest temptations right now is for Christians to be given over to fear and despair because the situation in our country looks so bleak; but when you read your Bible, you'll see that Christians have been here before...and even worse.

What could Paul say to Christians who were being persecuted, marginalized, blamed, and even made scapegoats for some of the worst problems in the Roman Empire?

**[Read Romans 5:1-5; 8:31-38]**

### **III. Be Focused on the Real Enemy and Alert to How He Works**

**[Read Ephesians 6:12-18]**

Everyone knows there's evil in our world today, but our world still thinks you can reduce all this evil all down to biological, sociological, psychological, economic, or political factors that can be fixed or controlled by education or a revolution. The real enemy keeps being ignored.

#### **A. He Wants You to Doubt Who You Are**

Two times he says to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God..." (Luke 4:3, 9)

He's going after identity - the very thing that God the Father wanted Jesus to be so sure of as He headed into ministry.

**Luke 3:22** "...You are my beloved Son, with You I am well pleased."

It's still one of Satan's favorite strategies - to keep you unsettled and unsure about where you really stand with God and whether He loves you. When you don't know who you are, you don't fight temptation very well.

#### **B. He Wants You to Turn a Legitimate Desire into an Ultimate Demand**

**Luke 4:3** "...command this stone to become bread."

Satan knew that Jesus had a legitimate desire for food. He was hungry, but He never used His power to serve Himself. He models trusting God and waiting for God to provide and meet this desire in His time.

When we get hungry, we're much more susceptible to shifting from a desire to a demand - whether it's hungry for food, affirmation, security, or relationship.

When a good thing becomes an ultimate thing in your life, you'll freak out with fear whenever it's threatened, go into a rage if anyone blocks you from it, and spiral into despair if you just can't get it.

Jesus is the key to you and me surviving and triumphing over temptation, but it's not enough to have Jesus as your example; you need to have Him as your Savior! He came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves: to be made right with a holy God, to be forgiven, made clean, and made whole in a world full of brokenness.