

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**Fighting Temptation, Part 2**  
**Luke 4:1-13**

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The real enemy has not changed and his favorite strategies for taking us down remain the same.

**I. Satan Wants You to Doubt Who You Are as A Child of God**

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 or not He loves you. When you don’t know who you are, you can’t fight like a child of God.

**Ephesians 6:14-15** “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.”

This is not a reference to us proclaiming the Gospel to others. This is a reference to us being overwhelmingly convinced of it for ourselves.

**Romans 5:1-2** “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Our enemy goes after the assurance of salvation God wants you to have because it changes how you face temptation and fight spiritual battles.

**John 10:27-30** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

**II. Satan Wants You to Turn Legitimate Desires into Ultimate Demands**

**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.

Sin is always to some degree rooted in a refusal to believe that God is more dedicated to our good—and aware of what that is—than we are.

When you shift from a desire to a demand, you step into the path of idolatry—where you take a good thing and turn it into an ultimate thing that you want more than God. This idol then rules you, drives you, and controls you. It wreaks havoc on your relationship with God and people.

The bottom line: Anything that functions in your life as more important than God will ultimately ruin your life because it will drive you to be an addict.

### III. Satan Wants You to Reject Any Path that Includes Suffering

**Luke 4:5-7** “And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,<sup>6</sup> and said to Him, ‘To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup>If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours.’”

He’s offering Jesus a shortcut to what His Father has already promised will be His because of the suffering He’s going to endure.

**Luke 22:42** “...Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”

The Bible makes it clear that the normal Christian life includes suffering, but we keep looking for a pain-free version of Christianity.

Everything starts to make sense if you keep God’s goal in mind and eternity in view! His goal is not to give us our best life now, but to make us more like Christ...and we become more like Him through suffering.

Jesus our Savior suffered for us. Our suffering now is never random, but is always a part of His good work in making us more like Christ.

**James 1:2-4** “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup>for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup>And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

**1 Peter 4:12-13** “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.”

It’s not enough to have Jesus as your example if you don’t have Him first as your Savior.