



Lent Day 2, February 23, 2012 Every Word of God

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" Luke 4:1-4

These scriptures in Luke are typically read during Lent. What a stable foundation they make for us in our journey through Lent because in them Jesus shows us the right way to deal with temptation.

The very first thing I notice in verse one is that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. He did not try to conquer temptation in His own power. Now if Jesus needs the Holy Spirit, how much more do you and I as we sail forth each day to work or school? The wonderful news is that as Christ followers, we have the Holy Spirit living in us to guide us. He is like our own personal GPS system. As long as I turn on and use my GPS system in my car, I usually don't get lost--unless I haven't downloaded any updates in a while! I trust it to get me to where I'm going. The Holy Spirit does the same thing for us. As long as I don't quench the Spirit by sin, and I listen to Him, I can trust Him to lead me down the right path. I never have to face temptation alone--and the Holy Spirit has "automatic updates"--He knows when a particular path is "under construction" and not a good place for me to be at that moment!

I also see that Jesus used fasting as a way to allow Him to focus more clearly on God. In week two of Lent, we will explore the discipline of fasting and how it can draw us closer to God.

The next thing I notice is one of the tactics of the devil. When you look in verse three, you notice that Satan starts out by saying to Jesus, "IF you are the Son of God" Satan is deceptive. One thing he desperately wants to get us to do is to doubt or call into question what we know to be true. He can never change our salvation and all the spiritual blessings that we have as believers, BUT if he can get us to doubt these things, then he can get us to live like we are paupers instead of living the life of purpose God has called us too. Where is Satan deceiving you?

Finally, in verse four, we see how Jesus dealt with Satan. He doesn't get into a battle of words with Satan. He simply settles the issue for all time by saying that He is going to live by every word of God. Jesus lets God have the last word. He knows that God's words equals truth; Satan is helpless before the truth.

Application: Today's verses give us much to think about and many weapons to use against temptation.

1. First of all, we need to walk in the spirit (Galatians 5:16). This simply means that each morning we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us up, and we confess any sin, because sin will quench the Spirit working in our lives. We also need to listen to and obey the Spirit. If we keep ignoring Him, He will eventually become quiet.
2. We also need to know the promises of God and our identity in Christ so that when Satan tries to deceive us--and he will--we have the truth and scripture ready as a weapon. That's what Jesus did. God's words are powerful and they can make Satan's darts fall short of their target when we believe them.
3. Where is Satan trying to deceive you today? Right now spend some time in prayer and write down any lies you have been believing about yourself. Next, ask God to lead you to a verse or two of scripture that tells you the truth. Write down these verses and begin memorizing them so that you have them ready to use as a weapon.

Prayer: Lord, We thank you that you did not leave us helpless. You placed in each one of us your Holy Spirit to lead us and your word to protect us. When we are facing temptation, help us not to panic, but to choose to react as Jesus did. Thank you. Amen.