

## Walking in The Power of The Spirit!

*KJV Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

*17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Jesus is baptized publically and The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove comes on Him publically and The Father's voice is heard from heaven publically!

- But after the public affirmation comes the private confrontation with evil!

**Do you know that most of our struggles with evil will be private!**

*Matt 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

*2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

Why would God go to all this trouble publically acknowledging Jesus and then send Him to confront the devil.

- Because Jesus biggest problem wouldn't be people, it would be the devil!

His greatest challenges would be private not public!

**His greatest battles would be with His own flesh and the devils attempts to use the flesh had to be conquered before Jesus faced the cross!**

So The Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to fast, pray and be tempted by the devil through His flesh—notice:

**The devils comes when Jesus is hungry; when His flesh needed satisfying!**

The first thing the devil says is *"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

He says go ahead and satisfy your most basic fleshly need—food!

One of the first things that happen when we get hungry is headaches: the mind becomes easily irritated and agitated!

The devil will try to get in our minds because of hunger pains—people make bad decisions when they're hungry.

Esau sold his birthright when he got hungry! Notice what he said:

*NIV Genesis 25:32* "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

**Your flesh will lie to you and the devil will tell you you're going to die!**

That's when you tell yourself "I'm not going to die, I'm just hungry"

- **The average person can survive maybe a couple weeks without water, but a several weeks without food.**

[FYI here are some early symptoms of fasting:](#)

- Headache
- Fatigue.
- Nausea.
- Diarrhea
- Irritability.
- Minor depression.
- Lack of focus.

*KJV Matthew 4:5* Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,  
**6** And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Now the devil agrees that Jesus is the son of God and tells Jesus to do something foolish and get God to rescue Him—because God loves Him and won't let anything harm His children.

Jesus said "***this is tempting God!***" Intentionally placing ourselves in danger and expecting God to rescue us.

- [The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted \*\*not\*\* to kill Himself!](#)

**Matthew 4:8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

**9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

The last temptation in the wilderness is about glory, fame and fortune!

The devil wanted Jesus to worship him and he would give Jesus the kingdoms of the world that he now controls.

*KJV* **Matthew 4:10** Then saith Jesus unto him, **Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

Jesus told the devil God was his God too, and that he too should be worshipping Him!

It's important to note **Luke** says after Jesus endured His temptation:

*KJV* **Luke 4:14** And **Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit** into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region!

After His fast Jesus walked in the **strength and power** of The Holy Spirit! **Is it possible to have The Spirit and not walk in His power?**

You see the devil has only (3) ways he can tempt us:

1. Our physical appetite
2. Aesthetic nature (our love and desire for beautiful things)
3. Spiritual ambition

All the things Jesus says **choke The Word** in Matthew 13:22 and make us unfruitful!

**Fasting and prayer** together enables us to overcome these temptations and walk in the power of The Holy Spirit who is in us and with us!

**Fasting and prayer** lets The Word of God work in and through us!

You may say when did Jesus pray? When He quoted The Word back to the devil at **every temptation**—that my friends is the most effective way to pray!