

## **1Yr06 – Temptation Luke 4:1-13**

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Open your Bibles. Turn them, eventually, to Luke Chapter 4 as we continue our “One Year With Jesus” series. Title of the message today, “Temptation.” The youth aren’t in the room, but make them hear, make them listen to this message, parents. “Temptation.” We are moving through the life of Christ. This is our sixth message in our “One Year With Jesus” series.

Today we are going to see Jesus Christ tempted by the devil himself. It is the temptation cage fight of all time, and we’re going to see Jesus Christ beat temptation *on our behalf* at the absolute beginning of his ministry. It’s just as he comes out of the water from baptism. I mean the water is still running off of him, and the Holy Spirit is still running off of him. In Mark it says the Holy Spirit compelled him at that moment to go into the wilderness. And so Jesus, in our last message, comes up out of the water. (Remember he did it in slow motion for us, so we could watch him come up and the heavens open and the Holy Spirit fell on him and the Father spoke to confirm him.) And then immediately the Holy Spirit drove him into the wilderness to fast for forty days, to meet the devil himself in the ultimate battle of temptation.

What I’m praying that you’ll see today (and I pray you leave saying you actually “got something” out of the message) is that you would, number one, see that our positional victory is in Christ. That our positional victory is Christ’s victory and because he was victorious over temptation that in him, through our identification with him, that we too can be victorious. And number two, I pray that you would see a two step plan, and I’m going to hit it a couple times so you’ll have a chance to remember it. I pray you’re going to see Jesus’ two step plan for what I call practical victory over temptation. I want you to see that your true victory, your positional victory comes in Christ through your identification with Christ through faith in him. However, there is also a need for practical victory. You have to get up tomorrow morning and you have to be victorious over temptation in your life and you’re going to see both those things today in this passage.

Lets’ pray. *Heavenly Father, please by your Spirit, by your living Word lit alive by the power of your Spirit; sear this truth into our hearts, God. Temptation is overwhelming in this world. It’s daily, it’s moment by moment. Help us to see it, and Jesus help us to see that you experienced it without sin and that in your victory is our victory. And help us to see how you approached it as one hundred percent man while one hundred percent God. Help us to see your approach that we can use for our practical victory today. That’s our*

*prayer today, Lord. Please unveil it. Please reveal it to us from your Word, in your name we pray, Jesus, amen.*

We're going to see Jesus victorious in a head-to-head battle with the devil. And I don't know if you've ever said (like Flip Wilson) "the devil made me do it!" but probably not, honestly. It's because the devil is not omnipresent and you're probably just not that important to get the devil himself, to get Lucifer himself. But he's got a myriad of little demons and he's probably sending in the littlest, baby, runt of a demon to come in and destroy your life. And that's enough. That's a big enough battle for you.

I want you to know Jesus conquered temptation face to face with the devil on your behalf. I know I've said it. I want you to hear it again. He did it on his way to living a sinless life so that he could be the perfect, sinless sacrifice for us to pay for our sins, to take the wrath of God and pay for our sins in our place. But he also faced temptation for another reason.

If you're in Luke 4 write down Hebrews 4:14-15 in your margin.

**Hebrews 4:14–15 (NLT)**

***14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.***

***15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.***

You can't say "God just doesn't know what I've been through!" Yeah, he does. He understands, *he understands*. This section in Hebrews is about Jesus being our great High Priest and I'd love to teach Hebrews someday. A priest was a mediator between God and man. And hear me when I say "was" because they are no longer needed in that formal sense. But in the Old Testament a priest was a mediator between God and man. He understood the struggles of man, and so he would reach down to man's struggles. And then he understood the holiness of God and he would reach up to God's hand and he would connect the struggles of mankind to the holiness and mercy of God. Jesus Christ is now our great High Priest, we no longer need an earthly priest because Jesus Christ fills that need for you at any moment and at all times.

He faced what you faced. He experienced what you experienced yet he did it without sin. So he understands both your struggle and God's holiness, that's why he is our great High Priest. Jesus understands, he's been there; he "bought the t-shirt."

I want you to notice in Hebrews 4:14 again, it says because Jesus is our High Priest who won our victory over every temptation, it says ***let us hold firmly***. Remember that. We must hold firmly if we are going to practically walk in victory over temptation we must hold firmly to our faith in God.

How can Hebrews 4:15 say that Jesus faced all of the same testings that we face? How can he do that? He didn't face maybe the specific tempting or testings that you face, yet the Bible says he faced all the same testings. Here's why. Because temptations in your life come in only three broad categories. Three broad categories collect all temptation. All the temptations you face falls under one of three broad categories, all of which Jesus faced. So I want to show you the three categories of temptation so you'll be able to say, "Okay it's a little clearer now. All the temptation I face falls under one of these three headings."

Turn over to 1 John Chapter 2. We are going to be reading from the ESV because it makes some things really clear in the literal that we can make notes on, that we can keep track of. 1 John Chapter 2 the Apostle John lays out these three broad categories. All of your temptations fall into one of these categories. Follow me on this and you're going to see the whole message. We're going to see John lay out the three broad categories of temptation, and then we are going to go all the way back to the fall of man in Genesis Chapter 3 and we're going to see those same three exact categories of temptation that the devil used on Adam and Eve. And then we're going to come back into the middle and see that he used the exact same three categories of temptation on Christ. Three categories of temptation in 1 John, the same three in Genesis 3 at the fall of man, and the same three in the temptation of Christ.

Why? Here's why. Because Satan is not a creator. He cannot create. He doesn't have the ability to create, he is a created being and so all he can do is mimic. And he began mimicking in these three areas of temptation and then he just sticks to it. So if he can't create, and he doesn't come up with anything new in a broad sense, then you can know how you're going to be tempted. Because he uses the same temptations.

### **1 John 2:15–16 (ESV)**

***15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.***

***16 For all that is in the world – (1) the desires of the flesh and (2) the desires of the eyes and (3) pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.***

There are your broad categories of temptation that you face every day that lead you down the broad road to destruction.

- #1) *The desires of the flesh* – our **physical** desires and cravings
- #2) *The desires of the eyes* – what we **see** that draw us to sin
- #3) *Pride of life* – “self-absorbed **conceit** of your own superiority”

And so John categorizes them so we can know what we’re dealing with.

Three Broad Categories of Temptation

- #1) What your flesh craves
- #2) What your eyes see
- #3) What your pride thinks of yourself

Turn back to Genesis Chapter 3; let’s see the devil in action. Genesis Chapter 3, the fall of man. If you’re not familiar with how sin entered the world and the fall of mankind, read all of Chapter 3 of Genesis. Really, the first 6 chapters of Genesis tell the whole story. Honestly. So, you should know those. But here in Chapter 3 we have the fall of mankind. We are going to focus on just one thing today, because we’re not really talking about the fall, but about how *you fall*. And how I fall. We fall because we give in to the temptations of the world that have been so set up by the enemy that he doesn’t even have to show up. He just has spun this world up in the temptation areas and then we (using the lust of our flesh, the lust of our eyes and our pride,) jump right into sin and destruction.

Here’s how Genesis 3:6 spells it out. These are the same temptations we saw in 1 John, and these are the same temptations we’ll see in the temptation of Christ.

### **Genesis 3:6 (ESV)**

***6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (the desire of the flesh, physical craving), and that it was a delight to the eyes (desire of the eyes, what we see that draws us to sin), and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise (Pride of life, thinking you know it all), she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.***

(The litmus test for pride is how often are you right? The more often you’re right, the more your life is being destroyed by pride.)

Baam! Sin enters mankind and through Adam sin comes to all mankind including to us, both from our adamic nature (our sin nature) and by choice. Do you see the three categories of temptation there? The desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes and the pride of life. It’s the same three categories as 1 John 2.

Now let's go to Luke Chapter 4. If you're an experienced Bible scholar you would say, hmmm, most people use Matthew. I know they do. But I'm using Luke because Luke puts the temptations in the same order that 1 John 2 and Genesis 3 put them. So I like Luke's account. I am showing you three broad categories of temptation and I'm going to show you how Jesus was victorious over them and in the end I'm going to tell you that you can be victorious the same way that Christ was victorious.

**Luke 4:1 (ESV)**

***1 and Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness***

Mark those words *full of the Holy Spirit*, until the ink comes through the page.

And so he is baptized down there near Jericho, and the wilderness there is ugly. It's a desolate, ugly wilderness. And so Jesus comes up from that baptism, is filled with the Holy Spirit and is led immediately into the wilderness.

Here we find step number one for our practical victory over temptation. How many Christians have said or have you heard say, "I just can't help it. I can't stop it." You should say, "You are right. You can't. But Christ in you can."

Here's the number one step to doing that. Here it is five words – full of the Holy Spirit. So step number one is *be full of the Holy Spirit*. We're going to see as Jesus goes head-to-head in the all time great cage temptation fight of history, Jesus is going to stay full of the Holy Spirit. Isn't it interesting that Jesus, one hundred percent God but still one hundred percent man, did not face any temptations until he was baptized in the Holy Spirit? Jesus did not go face to face with the devil until he was full of the Spirit. Jesus did not face the temptations of the world until he was full of the Holy Spirit. What makes us think we can handle it without? "Well, I'll just try harder. I'll just try harder to be a better Christian." Forget about it. Forget about trying harder. Be filled with the Holy Spirit because Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit before he faced the temptations of this world.

You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit; I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What does this mean? If you will go to [wordbymail.com](http://wordbymail.com) and click on the search icon and type in the words Holy Spirit, you will get a list of messages. Also, there's a topic icon, type in Holy Spirit and you will get a list of messages. So either way, take the opportunity to learn about the Holy Spirit; who he is, what his role is, why you need him and how to be filled with him every day. And then do that before you face temptations, which you will face as soon as you walk out those doors. In fact they are rolling around in your head even as we speak. So, number one, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Step number two, for victory over all temptation was mentioned back in Hebrews 4:14. That's why I've got to connect it, because you're going to see Jesus work it out. But here it is in a recipe. Number one; be full of the Holy Spirit. Number two, you must hold firmly to your faith. *You must hold firmly to your faith.* Listen, do you have a role in conquering temptation in your life? Yes. Of course we have a role, because we have a choice. And so we have the power of the Holy Spirit but the power of the Holy Spirit is only applied to the temptation when we choose to apply it. So we must hold firmly to our faith in God and to our faith in God's word. Firmly enough, (here's the big deal, this might be new for you) we must hold firmly enough to it to actually act on it. It's new, right? "Oh, you mean I actually have to do that? That's a whole different game, now."

Those are the two steps to conquering in Christ, every temptation you're going to see. Be full of the Holy Spirit, hold firmly to faith in God's Word.

So here's what we've learned so far.

There are three broad categories of temptation.

What our FLESH CRAVES.

What our EYES SEE.

What our PRIDE THINKS.

And because this world is set up to tempt us in these three major areas, for the most part we are taken out by ourselves. James says that your sin comes from your own desires that lead ultimately to death. And so we've got to understand and place them and know that the enemy is using those lures to lead us to destruction.

So first we have to understand

The three broad categories of temptation.

What our FLESH CRAVES.

What our EYES SEE.

What our PRIDE THINKS.

And then to be victorious over temptations

**BE FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**HOLD FIRMLY TO OUR FAITH IN GOD** that we actually act.

I've said that enough, right? This is exactly what we are going to see Jesus do in his epic face-off with the devil.

Starting from Luke 4:1-2.

**Luke 4:1-2 (ESV)**

***1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness***

***2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.***

(Jesus Christ would not face a day, a moment of his ministry on this earth until he was full of the Holy Spirit.)

Listen, if you fast for forty days in the desolate wilderness, there's a good chance you're a little bit more than hungry at the end of that forty days. This is serious. This is a serious, serious deal. Forty days of fasting would have put Jesus in an almost immovable physical state. In an almost immovable mental state. Forty days without food, we don't know if he had water or not, but forty days without food and you are in a place where you cannot hardly move or think straight. Jesus was as weak, at this point, as any one of us would be if we went out into the desert and fasted for forty days. He would barely be able to move, barely be able to think straight. He was brought to his absolute weakest physical, emotional and mental state. This isn't like the glorified Christ from Revelation Chapter 1 meeting a puny devil. This is Jesus' one hundred percent man brought to his lowest possible state.

And then waiting for the devil to bring his worst. He is weak, he is desolate, he is barely holding on to life. And he waits for the devil to come sliding up. And if Jesus would have failed, you and I would have no hope of heaven. If he would have failed this test, he would not have been sinless; he could not have been the sinless sacrifice. Your sins could not be paid for by him and so you would be paying for them yourself. He had to be victorious at this moment. He also had to be victorious because our overcoming of temptation is in him. And so as he overcame temptation we overcome temptation through our identification in Christ.

Ssssssoooo, Ssssatan ssssaunters up to Jesus. And Satan is in his full glory. He is a glorious being. He comes up and hovers over the almost dead Christ. That's the situation. That's what it looks like. Jesus is in the devil's world now. "This is no longer the throne room of heaven. You are on my turf, Jesus. And I'm going to take you out"

This is a serious, serious deal. Our salvation is on the line. Jesus had become a man. And Satan said, listen. I know how to take man out. I've been using the same categories of temptation since I took the first Adam out. I will take the second Adam out with the same

temptations. What the flesh craves, what the eyes see and what the pride thinks. And so it begins in Luke 4:3.

**Luke 4:3 (ESV)**

***3 The devil said to him, “If (if indeed) you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”***

First temptation, what the flesh craves. What the flesh needs. The physical desire. Just like in 1 John 2, just like in Genesis 3. Now, this isn't flesh as in the sin nature that you and I have. Jesus didn't have the sin nature. But he was one hundred percent man, one hundred percent physical man and he was one hundred percent on the edge of death through physical starvation. And Satan says, “Here's your bread. Just turn this stone into bread.”

Here's the temptation, listen closely to me please. *This was a very real temptation for Jesus to meet his fleshly needs himself outside the will of God.* Sound like anything we've done? He is tempted in every way like you have been, yet without sin. And in his victory is your victory. And through his process you can be victorious in a practical way. Could Jesus have turned this stone into bread? Of course he could have. Just as you and I can very easily meet our fleshly cravings ourselves. We don't need God to meet our fleshly needs. We can serve them ourselves. But we serve them outside of God's will when we do.

Jesus knew that this temptation was hitting him at his weakest point, at his weakest time. So listen to me, please. Jesus remains full of the Spirit. You don't fast forty days without being in direct connection to God. And so the fasting, although it made Jesus weak, made him spiritually strong. And so full of the Spirit Jesus holds firmly to faith in God's word and we see Jesus answer in Luke 4:4.

**Luke 4:4 (ESV)**

***4 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’ ”***

Man shall not live by satisfying the cravings of his flesh alone. We have an entire culture built on gratifying the cravings of the flesh. Everything around us, is built on satisfying the cravings of the flesh. It is written man shall not live by satisfying the cravings of the flesh alone. Jesus took Satan's best shot in this area, tempting his flesh. He held firmly to God's Word and he said it is written man shall not live by satisfying the cravings of the flesh alone. And Jesus stands down the devil's first temptation.



I just want you to notice one thing here. And I said it already. Jesus didn't just know God's Word, he acted on it. And so without being sarcastic, you know that there's a whole bunch of Christians that say, "I know God's word says I shouldn't satisfy this craving myself, but I'm going to anyway." Right? So it's very dangerous to know God's Word and to consciously choose contrary to it. Write this verse in your margin, John 13:17.

**John 13:17 (ESV)**

***17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.***

And I think the paraphrase is, if you know these things, big hoot. So what. Blessed are you if you *do them*.

Jesus holds firmly to the Holy Spirit. You can do that. You can be full of the Holy Spirit when you face the cravings, the temptations of your flesh. And then he held firmly enough to God's Word to actually act on it. Round one goes to Jesus on our behalf. Up next, round two. Luke 4:5-7.

**Luke 4:5-7 (ESV)**

***5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,***

***6 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.***

***7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."***

First of all, side note; let me ask you two questions? The kingdoms of this world have been delivered to whom and by whom? Satan and by Adam. God gave this world to Adam. Adam gave it to Satan. Satan is the usurping controller of this world until Christ changes things. To whom can Satan give their authority? To whomever he wants.

This temptation is from category number two, the desire of the eyes. What the eyes see, the lust of the eyes. Same category of temptation we saw in 1 John 2 and in Genesis 3. Satan takes Jesus to a high place where he could see all the kingdoms of the world at once. And Satan could, right then, in a moment, hand Jesus what Jesus came for. He could give Jesus the goal. He could give Jesus the end goal, the purpose why he came. Why did Jesus come? He came to ultimately be King of the World. He came to ultimately rule and reign over God's creation. And right here Satan gives him the chance to get what he came to get. Satan offers him victory right here, for one little price. Just bow, just bow to me for a second and you'll get everything you came to get. Just one nod of worship.

And you can have the crown without the cross. You can become king of all the kingdoms of the world without having to suffer.

Do you see how that's so similar to us? Can you see something in your life where the world says, God's way is a little tough. God's way seems to not be working that well. God's way seems a little hard. God's way seems to have some suffering in it. Why don't you just skip it, man? Just jump to the end. Get what you came for. It's easy. All you have to do is turn from God's will. Follow after the world. You can have what your eyes see, without having to experience the difficulty of doing it God's way.

Whoa! Jesus experienced all the temptations that we experience yet without sin, and in him we are victorious positionally and through his method we can be victorious practically. Do you see it? But first you have to understand, wait a minute! That's actually a temptation for me to get what my eyes want without going through it by God's will.

The problem is that when we follow that desire of the eyes and we get what we want outside of God's will, it often vaporizes. And we find out we are on a dark road far from God. And so God gives us a way. Do you want the crown without the cross? Or do you want to glorify God no matter what? Listen, glorify God no matter what. Because everything else is a temptation to get something easy that leads to something dark. Understand how the enemy of your soul works. And then say "NO!" to him.

So, how does Jesus do it? By being full of the Spirit and by holding firmly to faith in God's Word. Let's look at Luke 4:8.

**Luke 4:8 (ESV)**

***8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' "***

I know you're offering me the easy road to get what I came for. I know that's my ultimate goal. But I won't for a second worship you. I won't bow to you for an instant to get it. Even if the end result seems good, I won't bow.

Worship God alone and serve him only because the easy way out involves glorifying and worshipping the ways of the world and the mechanic, if you will, behind the world – Satan.

So full of the Spirit, hold firm to God's Word, firm enough to act on it – Jesus conquers temptation number two in the same way we can conquer it.

Finally, round three of the greatest temptation face-off of all time, Luke 4:9-11.

**Luke 4:9-11 (ESV)**

***9 And he (Satan) took him (Jesus) to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ 11 and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”***

This temptation comes straight out of the third category, the pride of life, what our pride thinks. We define “the pride of life” as “*self-absorbed conceit of your own superiority.*” That’s a wonderful definition of pride. Does that define Jesus? No. But it does define what the devil is trying to get Jesus to do. What the devil is to the principle the devil is trying to get Jesus to break. Self-absorbed conceit of your own superiority.

And I just have to mention the fact that the devil is quoting scripture. And really, basically he is quoting it correctly. This is Psalm 91 that Satan is quoting. Can I just tell you something? Just because you’re able to quote scripture doesn’t mean you’re from God. So you remember that next time some nutcase with a Bible comes along and starts telling you wacky stuff. Say, “Listen, Satan himself quotes scripture, so you know it doesn’t impress me that you can quote scripture.” Just because you can quote scripture doesn’t mean you are from God.

This was in order to tempt Jesus to choose his own superiority, right – that’s what Satan wants. Jesus knows he is superior but Satan wants Jesus to act on his superiority. If Christ were to do that it would be to prove his superiority over the devil and over life itself. He would do it only to prove something to the devil. That is prideful. To prove your superiority. It’s like the schoolyard bully that has the Christian kid in the headlock and the Christian kid won’t fight back. Get it? Because to fight back, to stand up, to prove that you can do it comes from your pride. It’s a prideful, puffed up, “I’ll show you – I’m right, I’m better, I’m superior, I know.” That’s pride. And we think sex, drugs, money, etcetera, are the big sins in the church. Let me tell you the big sin in the church – pride. It’s the first sin, it’s the big sin, and most other sins come from it. Be afraid.

So if Jesus responds now he would do it out of pride to prove something and he won’t do it. And instead we read in Luke 4:12:

**Luke 4:12 (ESV)**

***12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”***

Don't test God. Yes God could have saved Christ. But don't test him. Don't put yourself out there with a puffed up chest and handle three rattle snakes. The point is, don't test God. Strike three, the devil is knocked out of the ring. The lust of the flesh, what the flesh craves, the lust of the eyes, what the eyes see, the pride of life, what the pride thinks.

One, two, three and this battle of eternity between Satan and Jesus goes three to zip to Jesus. Because Jesus remained full of the Spirit even though he had fasted for forty days, even though he was on the edge of death by starvation and even though he was being hammered by Satan at his best in every circumstance, in every situation Jesus remained full of the Holy Spirit and you can too! And that's your power to follow Christ in the midst of difficulty and temptation, that's your power to make the right choices. Be full of the Spirit and then hold firmly to God's Word and say, "You know what, actually, I know just enough to know that's not good." And then don't do it. Actually act on what you know.

And so we read in Luke 4:13:

**Luke 4:13 (ESV)**

***13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.***

This guy doesn't know when to quit. He's going to continue to give Jesus reasons to be thrown off course and to not accomplish his mission. But of course, Jesus will and he did it for us, he did it in our place so that through our identification with him we can be victorious, even if we were to go head-to-head with the devil himself, which we probably will not. But when his little baby, junior, rookie demon comes around here's how you can face him down. The same way Jesus did – be full of the Spirit before he shows up. (It's a little too late if it's right there in your face and you're saying, "Okay, how do I get full of the Spirit again? I never figured that out.") Walk in the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 says "Don't be drunk with wine but be (continually) filled with the Spirit." It means to just be so impacted by the Spirit of God that every part of your faculty is affected. Be full of the Spirit. If you don't know what that means, ask us, and we'll tell you.

I really want to start letting you guys know, what's going on in the new wordbymail Bible teaching library is pretty out of control, actually. Really, really cool and so let me tell you. If you want to study temptation, go to [wordbymail.com](http://wordbymail.com), click on the search icon (the magnifying glass) and type in the word Temptation. And you will see seven or eight messages pop right up. Not all mine, but we are building a great Bible teaching library with other great Bible teachers – all expositional, solid Bible teachers. And there are six

or seven messages on Temptation there. So, learn about temptation, learn more importantly how to be full of the Spirit.

To close, listen. I know I've said it. Your victory is in Christ. It's through your identification with Jesus Christ. Positionally. Write Colossians 2:6-15 in your margin. It talks about how Jesus conquered these pinhead demons, these principalities and powers that take Christians out so easily. Jesus conquered them and your victory is in his victory through faith in him.

However along with your positional victory you could use some practical victory. Meaning you need to be victorious practically, meaning day-to-day as you go. And so this head-to-head battle with Satan that Jesus fought was to win it on our behalf but to also show us how we can win it practically. I know I've said it – I need you to hear it. You have to figure out and set yourself to this. To be filled with the Holy Spirit at all times, the presence of God with you, in you, moving through you. You've got to be filled with the Spirit. And then you've got to know enough of God's Word, believe firmly enough in it, have faith enough in it that you actually act on it. That's it. And you, because of your positioning in Christ, you can conquer every temptation. Be full of the Holy Spirit; hold firmly enough to the Word of God that you actually act on it, and you can overcome the temptation that the devil wants to use to destroy your life and the lives of those around you. It's possible! Victory is yours in Christ! Take it!

### **1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)**

***13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.***

When it comes to temptation, if we'll use Christ's method – Let me just remind you – the way of escape for Jesus was to be full of the Holy Spirit and hold firmly to God's Word no matter what. You glorify God in your temptation by being full of the Spirit and obeying what you know to be true. And God is glorified.

Let's pray. *Lord Jesus as we pray please speak to our hearts. By the power of your Spirit Lord speak to our hearts.*

(I'm just going to give you a minute to deal with God on your own. Would you just right now be honest with yourself, because God already knows the truth? But he wants your confession. What area of temptation are you willingly falling in? What area of temptation are you choosing the world's way over God's way? What area of temptation is currently destroying your life? Would you just deal with God – allow the Holy Spirit to bring that

up. For some of us in the room, if we can't think of anything major, then think of something minor. Because you're being changed from glory to glory into the image of Christ until you see him face to face. And so he wants to change you today.)

*Lord show us, show us where we're being duped by the enemy, where we are giving in to the cravings of our flesh Lord, Where we are chasing the cravings of our eyes. Where we are blinded by the pride of our thinking. Show us God.*

*(Now that you've confessed it, repent.) Lord I'm sorry. I turn from that right now. I recognize, I repent. I feel your pressure on me. I turn from that sin, that temptation right now and turn to you. Tangibly, purposefully I turn. I walk in the light and I turn my back on the darkness and I walk in the light. Jesus, please come into my life Baptize me in your presence. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me the strength to follow after you and to keep my back turned to the temptations of the world. Lead me into the abundant life and away from the pit of destruction. I surrender my life and commit to follow you Jesus as my Lord. In your name I pray, amen.*