

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study  
Lesson Eight

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 4 this week  
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

The temptation of Jesus was an epic conflict, specifically arranged by the Holy Spirit. If you are led by the Spirit, you will face attack from the enemy. This attack came after Jesus was baptized, and the trinity appeared before those present.

1. Find other biblical examples of trials that came after a miracle/blessing.

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Read Hebrews 4:15

"Jesus had the power to do anything, but the authority to do only that which the Father had willed." –Chuck Missler

Matthew Henry states, "He was *full of the Holy Ghost*, who had *descended on him like a dove*. He had now greater measures of the gifts, graces, and comforts, of the Holy Ghost than ever before. Note, Those are well armed against the strongest temptations that are *full of the Holy Ghost*."

Read in John 14:16-17, Ephesians 1:13-14.

2. According to these verses, when are we filled with the Holy Spirit?

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As believer's we are "being filled with the Spirit". Ephesians 5:18 states, "*And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit*".

We are also cautioned not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit.

Ephesian 4:30 – *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”*. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 – *“Do not quench the Spirit”*.

How do you deal with temptation? We all face it. Even Jesus faced it. What can we learn from how He responded during temptation?

*“Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness 2for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry.”* Luke 4:1,2

3. What is fasting, and what are some scriptural reasons to fast? Find verses to support your answer.

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4. Read Genesis 7:4 and Deuteronomy 9:9-11. Who else experienced a significant forty days? And for what purpose?

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Jesus was being “led by the Spirit”. That is the most important practice in dealing with temptation. When we make a practice of hearing the Spirit leading us, it will help us respond to the inevitable temptations in a way that pleases the Lord.

Notice that it was not the Spirit that was tempting, but the devil.

5. Read James 1:13-15. What stands out to you?

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6. Read Luke 4:2-12. How, specifically, was Jesus tempted?

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Now using 1John 2:16, note which category each of the enemy's temptations fell into? (Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or pride of life)

This exert is taken from the Charles Stanley Life Principles Bible:

Temptation: The Two Adams Contrasted

"Both Adam and Christ faced three aspects of temptation: Adam yielded, bringing upon humankind sin and death. Christ resisted, resulting in justification and life."

1 John 2:16	Genesis 3:16 First Adam	Luke 4:1-13 Second Adam - Christ
"the lust of the flesh"	"the tree was good for food"	"tell this stone to become bread"
"the lust of the eyes"	"it was a delight to the eyes"	"the devil....showed Him all the kingdoms"
"the boastful pride of life"	"the tree was desirable to make one wise"	"throw Yourself down from here"

Let's look at the three types of temptation.

### **Lust of the Flesh**

Matthew Henry – "He tempted him to distrust his Father's care of him, and to set up for himself, and shift for provision for himself in such a way as his Father had not appointed for him. If we begin to think of being our own carvers, and of living by our own forecast, without depending upon divine providence, of getting wealth by our might and the power of our hands, we must look upon it as a temptation of Satan's, and reject it accordingly; it is Satan's counsel to think of an independence upon God."

Is there ever a time you questioned God's care for you or His provision? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lust of the Eyes

Just because something looks good, does not mean it really is good. Matthew Henry – “In the devil’s tempting of our first parents, he presented to them the forbidden fruit, first as *good for food*, and then as *pleasant to the eyes*; and they were over powered by both the charms.”

What are some things that have looked good to you in the past and you later recognized they were not from the Lord?

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## Pride of Life

James 1: 14-15 – “*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*”

There was a traditional belief among the Jewish people that the Messiah would show Himself to Israel by standing on the roof of the temple. If Jesus had done what Satan suggested, it would have fulfilled the Messianic expectation of His day.

Charles Spurgeon puts the temptation of Christ in relation to us like this:

“It is a common-place thought, but it has tasted like nectar to my weary heart. Jesus was tempted as I am. You have heard that truth a thousand times: have you grasped it? He was not exempted from any of even the sinful temptations which occur to us. He was tempted to the very same sins into which we fall. Do not dissociate Jesus from yourself. It is a dark room which you are going through, but Jesus went through it before. It is a sharp fight which you are waging, but Jesus has stood foot to foot with the same enemy.”

Looking back at your own past disobedience, can you see which category of temptation those actions fell into? Is there one area that you struggle with more than others?

For example, if you struggle with gossip, that is not a lust of the flesh or the eyes, but rather pride of life. You may struggle with pride of life temptations more often than the others.

This is between you and the Lord, and you will not have to share. So, take some time and be open to let the Lord reveal this to you.

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Knowing which areas are more tempting to you, you can now look for Scripture that can help as you are being tempted. Using the gossip example above, we find that Proverbs 11:13 and 20:19 can be good verses to memorize for someone who struggles with gossip, to use as a tool to react to temptation in a good way.

What verses can help you when faced with your personal temptation struggles?

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Verses 3,4

When Satan said, “**If** you are the Son of Man...” he was actually saying, “Since” you are the Son of Man (see original Greek). Satan wasn’t questioning Jesus’ divinity; he was challenging Him to display it.

The temptation was basically this: “Since You’re the Messiah, why are You so deprived? Do a little something for Yourself.” The same temptation comes to us: “If you’re a child of God, why are things so tough? Do a little something for yourself.” --David Guzik

The temptation to eat something inappropriate worked well with the first sinless man (Genesis 3:6), so the devil thought to try it on the second sinless man. –David Guzik

7. Now rereading 4:3-12, How did Jesus specifically react to each of the temptations?

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Being Spirit led was first in Jesus fighting His temptations. What else helped Him respond in a good way?

8. What stands out to you in Psalm 119:11 and Matthew 13:23?

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Jesus replied with an accurate use of scripture. In doing so, He displayed His ability to rightly divide the Word of Truth. Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

David Guzik - "By relying on the power and truth of God's Word, Jesus was willing to fight this battle as a man; He could have easily rebuked Satan into another galaxy, but resisted him in a way that we can imitate and identify with."

David Guzik – "Jesus used *Scripture* to battle Satan's temptation, not some elaborate spiritual power inaccessible to us. Jesus fought this battle as fully man, and He drew on no 'special resources' unavailable to us. 'Out flashed the sword of the Spirit: our Lord will fight with no other weapon. He could have spoken new revelations, but chose to say, "*It is written*".' (Spurgeon)"

Read Luke 4:13

Warren Wiersbe noted,

"Adam was tempted in a beautiful garden and failed. The Last Adam was tempted in a dangerous wilderness (Mark 1:13) and succeeded. We have at our disposal the same spiritual resources that Jesus used when He faced and defeated Satan: prayer (Luke 3:22), the Father's love (Luke 3:23), the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1), and the Word of God ("It is written"). Plus, we have in heaven the interceding Savior who has defeated the enemy completely. Satan tempts us to bring out the worst in us, but God can use these difficult experiences to put the best into us. Temptation is Satan's weapon to defeat us, but it can become God's tool to build us (see James 1:1–8, 13–17)."

We are subject to these three types of temptations, but remember 1 Corinthians 10:13 – "*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*"