

It Is Written (Luke 4:1–13)

A. The Wilderness Experience

1. “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit in the wilderness” (v. 1).
 - a. Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18 NLT).
 - b. “He was led by the Spirit (in/into) the wilderness.” Young’s Literal Translation says it this way, “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, turned back from the Jordan, and was brought in the Spirit to the wilderness.”
2. There are two reasons we are in the wilderness: Rebellion (the children of Israel) or obedience (Jesus).

B. The Flesh, the Eyes and the Pride of Life

1. As we take a closer look at this encounter with Jesus, we will note tactics that the enemy has used for millennia. Let’s understand a few things about temptation.
 - a. God is not the source of our temptation (James 1:12–15).
 - b. Being tempted is not sinful, yielding to it is (Genesis 4:7).
 - c. God always provides a way out. We must seek it (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - d. This is Satan’s plan. He lies to convince us that God is greedy and stingy and does not have our best interests in mind.
2. Temptation takes three primary forms (1 John 2:16).
 - a. Lust of the flesh – craving for physical pleasure
 - b. Lust of the eyes – craving for everything we see
 - c. Pride of life – pride in our achievements and possessions

C. Doubt – One of Satan’s Greatest Threats

1. Questioning God’s Word. “Has God indeed said?” (Genesis 3:1-5).
2. Questioning God’s Authority
 - a. God’s provision. “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread” (vv. 3, 4).
 - b. God’s preeminence. “If You will worship before me, all will be Yours” (vv. 7, 8).
 - c. God’s protection. “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here” (vv. 9-12).
3. Questioning God’s People. Satan is the accuser of our brethren. (Revelation 12:10-11). But God promises we will prevail through:
 - a. The blood of the Lamb
 - b. The word of their testimony
 - c. And by being unafraid of death (Hebrews 2:14-15)

D. Winning the Battle

1. Speak God's Word.
 - a. And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone'" (v.4).
 - b. And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve" (v.8).
 - c. And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test'" (v.12).
2. Put on the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–19).
3. Recognize your enemy's tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11; Colossians 2:8).
4. Combat doubt and unbelief (Mark 9:22–24; Matthew 17:14-21).
5. Understand that it's the truth you know that will set you free (John 8:31–32).

Epilogue: This passage concludes with the devil's departure. "After the devil had tempted Jesus in every way, he left him to wait until a better time" (v. 13 NCV). Similarly, the Scriptures promises us that if we resist the devil, He will flee from us (James 4:17). Resistance is not futile but essential in winning our spiritual battles.

(VFC, August 10, 2025)