Battle with Boldness
Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

Preparation for the Battle
Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,
Matthew 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.

Follow the Spirit
- Being led by the Spirit is also seen in the laborers led into the harvest and the sheep responding to the shepherd's voice.
    - Matthew 9:38 – *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*
    - John 10:4 – *And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*
- Notice that Jesus went to a crowded area to profess His relationship with the Father in baptism, then secluded Himself to battle the enemy.
    - Matthew 6:6 – *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*
    - 2 Corinthians 10:4 – (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Focus on the Spirit
- The devil's temptation was a moment to prove Christ's holiness, not to pollute His holy character.
- Following the baptism that signified the beginning of His Messianic role, Jesus was tempted by the devil.
- Being tempted by the devil means being tried or tested.
- Jesus' temptation showed His growth in obedience, righteousness, and humility to best serve man.
    - Hebrews 5:8 – Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
    - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- The tempter was the devil, though many people blame God for their struggles.
    - James 1:13 – Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Fight in the Spirit
- Christ's forty-day fast proved that, at His weakest, Christ is still powerful enough to overcome Satan at his strongest.
    - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – **9** And he said unto me, *My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.* Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- Fasting is a service to fully devote oneself to communion with God, supplementing physical nourishment with spiritual intimacy with the Father.
    - Exodus 34:28 – And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Provisions in the Battle

Luke 4:3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. **4** And Jesus answered him, saying, *It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*

Secure in Christian Identity

- Satan tried to challenge the identity of Christ by getting Him to do evil.
- Believers' identity is proven on God's terms in righteousness, not the world's terms by evil.

Settled in God's Sufficiency

- While satisfying hunger is not wrong in itself, the way Satan proposed was evil.
- Satan attempted to change Jesus' focus from spiritual to physical.
- Remember, Jesus was led by the Spirit to the wilderness and fasted to grow spiritually. So He could depend on God to provide His needs rather than falling for the devil's temptations.
- Jesus did not use His spiritual connection to the Father for selfish edification.
    - Mathew 26:42 – He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, *O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*
    - Luke 23:35 – And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided *him*, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

Safe in Biblical Theology

- Christ exercised spiritual power through the Word of God to override the physical temptation.
    - John 6:35 – And Jesus said unto them, *I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*
    - John 6:50-51 – **50** *This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.* **51** *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*
- Notice: to activate the power of the Word, it must be known.
- Jesus overcame the first temptation by obeying the Word.
- Knowledge (knowing the Word) is essential, and wisdom (acting the Word) is exercised.

Power through the Battle

Luke 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6** And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. **7** If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. **8** And Jesus answered and said unto him, *Get thee*

behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Keep Your Eyes on the Work of God

- Being promoted to high places can change what you see as important, both spiritually and physically.
- Satan took Jesus to a high mountain to show Him what was accessible.
- Jesus recognized that Satan is only the prince of the world, but had no authority over the supernatural world.
    - Ephesians 2:2 – Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
    - 2 Corinthians 4:4 – In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
- What you perceive in your heart affects what you see with your eyes.
    - Genesis 3:6 – And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
    - 2 Samuel 11:2 – And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.
- Satan gave Jesus a quick glance at the kingdoms of the world to limit His time to decide.
- A hasty decision is often times not a holy decision.

Keep Your Mind on the Word of God

- Satan focused on the enticing parts of the kingdom to persuade Jesus' thinking.
- The temptations we face today are often presented with glamour, but rarely show the gore attached.
- Also, temptation comes with empty promises that fail to deliver what the spirit is searching for.
- Though temptation may produce a temporary physical reward, it is never long-lasting.
    - Matthew 6:20 – *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*
    - Matthew 6:1 – *Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*
- Luke 6:23-26 –
- Nothing gained from falling in temptation is worth the price of dishonoring God.

Keep Your Heart on the Worship of God

- Stepping away from the source of evil is an effective way to honor God.
    - Matthew 16:26 – *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*
    - 2 Timothy 2:3-4 – **3** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

- 1 John 2:15-16 – **15** Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- Titus 2:11-12 – **11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Protection in the Battle

Luke 4:9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: **10** For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: **11** And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. **12** And Jesus answering said unto him, *It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

Protection in Every Place

- The last temptation of Satan was in Jerusalem, a holy place.
  - 1 Peter 5:8 – Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
- The enemy's temptations are often masked by the location where they are presented.
- Christ's identity was not bound to actions that pleased the devil.
  - Hebrews 4:15-16 – **15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Protection against Every Perversion

- In addition to the third temptation being in a holy place, the devil used the Holy Word of God to attempt to turn Christ to sin.
- Scripture taken out of context, in part, or perverted can lead one down a path of sin, away from God's will.
  - Psalm 91:11 – For he shall give his angels charge over thee, To keep thee in all thy ways.

Protection to Eternal Praise

- Obedience must follow knowledge of the Word to live in righteousness.
- Jesus emphasized that there is one God and one way to God.
  - Romans 5:9 – Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
  - Hebrews 9:14 – How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Position after the Battle

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

- Heaven's comfort came after battling the enemy.
- Heaven's blessings come to those who faithfully battle.