

THE TEMPTATIONS

In temptations, the Word is your S-Word.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ When God is leading us to achievement, the path under the prince of this world will inevitably lead through temptation. So, what should we do? In temptation, we should use the Word of God, the Bible, as our Sword ("S-Word") or Spirit Word. Matthew 4:1-11 shows us how Jesus modelled this for us.

The lust of the flesh cannot be overcome by satisfying the flesh.

- ❖ "The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread'" (v. 3). At this point in time, Jesus had been fasting for forty days, so He was hungry.
- ❖ This event right after Jesus' baptism was the entry point into His ministry. It's why the devil, in trying to sow doubt, challenged Jesus by saying, "If you are the Son of God...."
- ❖ Jesus' meditation was **focused on His** role as the Son of God. He should test it. But pay attention to **how** the devil was telling Him to do so—by satisfying the flesh, the very thing that fasting brings under submission so that the spirit can be more open to God.
- ❖ "Jesus answered, 'It is written....'" (v. 4). What was written was probably foremost in Jesus' mind after forty days of focusing on it. "...Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (See also Deuteronomy 8:3.)
- ❖ Physical food comes from God, but it must never be taken in isolation. The spiritual food, God's Word, that Jesus had been consuming is what sustains our whole being, superseding physical bread. But be aware that if the devil can't get you through your physical appetite, he will try to come for your emotional appetite.

The pride of life comes before a fall if we test God's Word.

- ❖ The devil then moved the temptation from the private wilderness to the public stage of Jerusalem, saying, "If you are the Son of God...throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone'" (vv. 5-6).
- ❖ This one is crafty. In the first temptation, the devil didn't use the Word and he was beaten by it. In this second temptation, he fought back using the word, but it wasn't his sword. He quoted a biblical truth without the truth being in him.
- ❖ "Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test"'" (Matt. 4:7; see also Deut. 6:16). Jesus cuts to the heart of the passage and exposes the devil's trap. Trying to prove Himself to the devil would have been pride and a setup for a fall, both physically and spiritually.
- ❖ People often confuse faith with never asking questions, yet God encourages us to search for Him in His creation. In this type of questioning, we are seeking to know God better. What we want to avoid is testing God's existence or faithfulness. That mindset leads to spiritual abuse and idolatry, making God serve our purposes rather than us serving His.
- ❖ Faith begins with the assumption that God exists and rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6 KJV). You do not have to prove anything to experience Jesus' love. Just turn your heart to Him and let Him lead you into truth.
- ❖ When the devil sees you take that step, he comes out from the shadows and challenges you to serve him. Here's how.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11

(all scriptures in text are in NIV unless otherwise noted)

The lust of the eye distracts you with idolatry.

- ❖ "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor" (Matt. 4:8). Having failed in the private and public spaces, the devil took Jesus to the seat of worldly power he, the prince of this world, had access to. It's striking to see how he abandoned his use of the Word of God in this final temptation, using sight to tempt and inspire rebellion.
- ❖ "'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me'" (v. 9). Promises, promises. The devil offered Jesus worldly wealth. All of it. But there was a condition. **If** is always the key.
- ❖ The devil wanted Jesus' worship. But he was no match for Jesus, who said, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'" (v. 10).
- ❖ Whenever something wants to take the place of God in your life, promising all sorts of benefits, that conditional **if** is the giveaway that it's Satan. So, question the devil's offers, asking, "Why?" When you question the devil's offers, you'll find he wants your worship. But worship is only due to the Creator; giving it to anything else is idolatry.
- ❖ When you ask this question of Jesus, you'll discover that He, too, wants your worship, but unlike the devil, He is the Creator and holds all authority. He is to be worshipped.
- ❖ It isn't a coincidence that Jesus' responses to the temptations came from Deuteronomy. At the heart of chapter six is the command to love God with everything you are and have (v. 5). Firm grounding in God's Word will keep you from idolatry when the devil shows you worldly distractions.
- ❖ There **is** a way to beat temptation. In temptation, the Word is your S-Word. God will lead you through temptation and will deliver you from evil (Matt. 6:13). Learn His Word daily. Apply it continually as you grow in it.
- ❖ Because His Word, empowered by His Spirit, is your S-Word against the tempter.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What stands out to you about the way Jesus responded to temptation? Why do you think He consistently answered with Scripture?
2. In Matthew 4:1-11, the temptations appeal to the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eyes (1 John 2:16). In what ways do these same temptations show up in our lives today? How can we follow Jesus' example in resisting them? God's Word is our "S-Word" against temptation. Can you think of at least two other examples in the Bible where people either overcame temptation through obedience to God or failed because they ignored His Word? What lessons can we learn from those examples?

PRAYER TIME

When temptations come my way, I will use Your Word, Lord, as my S-Word. Amen!

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🗨️ (Think about)
! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: If you had to spend 40 days in the wilderness, what is one comfort item you would miss the most (e.g., phone, pillow, etc.)?

PRAYER FOCUS: Personal spiritual growth

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;
Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FAMILY BBQ

This is a reminder that our Faith Family BBQ will be taking place after service today. Come hungry!

FYYA NIGHT

Date: Friday, August 21st, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Main Sanctuary

Contacts: Pastor Dan Peel, Rev. Naomi Kovach,
or Sis. Shyanne Solomon

SUMMER SATURDAYS

Do you want to hear something cool? Summer Saturdays are taking place each Saturday from August 1st to September 12th. Summer Saturdays is where you don't have to plan anything fun for the family—we do that for you. Whether it's men's soccer, ping pong, board games, hiking, or enjoying a cup of tea during book club, we've got you covered! Sign up at the front foyer or see Sis. Tope for further details.



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

AUGUST 16, 2026



Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ... The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread. Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1, 3-4 (NIV)

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