

## How Has Jesus Overcome The Temptations ?

We read in St.Matthew 4:1-10,

*"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God..."*

God in different messages through His prophet has given the answer:

We find out that at the age of thirty He was baptized in the river of Jordan by John the Baptist (Luke 3:21-22). And when He was baptized, going straightway out of the water, we find that the Holy Spirit, God, like in a form of a dove, coming from heaven in a voice, saying, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I'm pleased to dwell." And the right translation of that, "Who I am pleased to dwell in," 'cause God was in Christ. And now, when He came down upon Him He become the Anointed One, the Messiah. [1]

He went straight into the wilderness and was tempted of the devil. Don't you see, just as soon as a spiritual blessing actually happens, look for the devil to stand there right then to rob you of it if he can. [2]

That's just the way it happens. When you get the Holy Ghost, the first thing the devil comes right along for temptations. When you claim your healing, watch the devil come right along to back her and say it's wrong. That's the time to stand, because you don't testify of what you see or feel. You testify of what you believe. That's right. Stay with it. [3]

And immediately (as overcomer) returning from His temptation He went about healing the sick, casting out devils, setting the people at liberty. Let's see then. The first thing that He did was start preaching the Gospel and healing the sick, all those that were oppressed by the devil.

Now, let's take some of His signs. Now, is He a Messiah? Now, we realize that they've had Divine healing even before He come on earth. How many knows that? The pool of Bethesda was a healing sign. And down through the ages they've had all kinds of healing. But there was supposed to be a sign following this Messiah. He had a Messianic sign. And if He was Messiah, which is the Anointed One, the Christ, then there was to be a sign of Messiah follow the Messiah.

There's a sign follows the believer (Mark 16:17-18). You believe that? God is a God of signs, wonders, and miracles. And if He was that the first time, He's that the second time, He's that the third time, He's that every time. [1]

It's always, signs and wonders follows God's Church, everywhere. Always has, and always will. [4]

Notice, the first thing He did after His temptation in the wilderness, He came forth as the anointed Messiah, the Messiah, the Christ. "Christ" means "The

Anointed One." He was born "Jesus" the man (Mat. 1:20-25), but when the Holy Ghost came into Him, He was the anointed Messiah. The Bible said, "God was in Christ, reconciling Himself to the world" (II Cor. 5:19). God, living in Him, the Fullness of the Godhead was in Him (Col. 2:9-10). "God poured all He was into Christ; Christ poured all He was into the Church."

On the day of Pentecost when they were assembled together, when that Pillar of Fire came down, It divided with cloven tongues and set upon each of them, showing that God was dividing Himself among His people (Acts 2:1-4). That's the reason I stand the way I do today between the churches; we've got to come together. The more we are together, the more God there is present. Not as I'm against the denominations or so forth, no; but don't a bare your fence. We're all children of God by the new birth. [5]

In Matthew 4, wherein Jesus is tempted of the devil, He overcame the personal temptations of Satan **by the Word, and by the Word only**. In each of the three major trials that corresponded exactly to the temptation of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-7), the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life (I John 2:16), Jesus overcame by the Word. Eve fell to the personal temptation of Satan by failing to use the Word. Adam fell in direct disobedience to the Word. But Jesus overcame by the Word. And right now, **let me say that this is the only way to be an overcomer, also it is the only way that you can know if you are overcoming, because that Word CAN'T fail.** [6]

He was tempted in every manner like we was. What did He do? He conquered it. What did He say to us? "*Resist the devil and he'll flee from you*" (James 4:6-7). He conquered sickness for us. He conquered temptation for us. Broke down the gates took the key away from the tempter (Rev. 1:18), and handed it over to the believer of Abraham's seed (Mat. 16:19); and said, "If he tempts you, resist him, and he'll flee from you." Oh, my. Resist him!

He conquered both death and hell. He rose up on the third day, saying, "I have overcome, and because I live you live also" (John 14:19; Acts 2:32-36). Oh, what a promise! That's to the seed of Abraham. He conquered the grave, rose up on the third day for our justification. When He rose up He was our justification. What does that make us? He conquered sickness, He conquered death, He conquered hell, He conquered the grave, He conquered temptation. [7]

When Satan tried to give Him, said, "I'll give you all these kingdoms of the world. They're mine." Same thing he come to Eve first by turning the bread, about eating and so forth. "I do all this if you'll worship me, you just come join our group." Jesus said, "It's written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'" [8]

He was tempted by His appetite. Because as a physical man has to live by bread, so does the spiritual man have to live by the Spirit. Before the physical man can eat bread, wheat has to die. Or barley, or corn, or ever what the bread was made out of, it has to die. And before the Spiritual man can live, Jesus Christ had to die. [9]

He said: "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever...*" (St. John 6:51-58).

But when He met Satan, or Satan met Him, He did not use any of His fine gifts, which I believe that in Him dwelt all the powers of heavens was in Him. But He never used any of them to defeat the enemy. When He met Satan, Satan tempted Him. He said, "It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone."

Then upon the pinnacle of the Temple, He met him again with the Word of God. When he taken Him up in the mountain, He met him again with the Word of God, so showing to us, as our example, **that the Word of God will defeat the enemy any place, anywhere, any time. It is written.** [10]

And remember, let me say this, brethren, the little church has started here on a line of gifts. See? Gifts are coming into the church. But whether there be gifts or not, if there's never a gift, I'll tell you, the gift won't always defeat the enemy, but the Word will. The Word will meet him anywhere.

And Jesus, when He was on earth, proved that. He was God manifested in flesh. But He never used any of His fine gifts to beat the enemy. When He met the enemy, He met him on the grounds of the Word, "It is written."

And the enemy come back, "It is written."

And He said, "It is also written," like that, until He beat the enemy. And that's what we're here for, is to meet the enemy with the material that God gave us to meet it with. [11]

Continually on Satan battled at Him, and even used the Scriptures, and Jesus come back, "And it's also written."

And Jesus defeated Satan without using any Divine gift that He had, **showing that the weakest of Christians can defeat Satan on the Word of God.** And that's the reason that I try to get before the person--nothing in the individual, the preacher, it's in Christ, and Christ is in His Word. Do you believe that?

Listen to this. "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us," died and rose again, and is in us today, the same Word that was in the beginning.

This Bible is the Letter of God. And every promise in It belongs to you, if you can believe It and accept It in the right kind of an attitude. It's in you, the hope of glory, Christ. [12]

Jesus overcame by the Word and by humility - so do we! There you are, brothers. Through meekness, through sweetness, through the Holy Spirit there we conquer, not some great mighty intellectual giant; but he that can humble himself is the man who conquers (Romans 8:37). The man who can be kicked around and still be a servant of Christ, that's the conqueror. [13]

He brought it down to where the weakest of Christians could have the privilege of using it. He said, "It's written that men shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." There you are. "Man shall not live by bread alone."

Then Jesus was taken under temptation to the pinnacle of the temple, and said "Perform a miracle for me. Let me see it done." You see, that same enemy lives today. "Let me see something. Let me bring you somebody, and you heal them for me." See? It's the same devil. The devil takes his man, but never his spirit. God takes

His man, but never His Spirit. The Spirit that was upon Elijah, come upon Elisha, from Elisha to John the Baptist, on down. The same Spirit that was in Christ is on His Church, and will be till Jesus comes to unite that Body with His in glory. Certainly.

Satan comes down with a religious man, just as religious and renowned as he can be, and he will work and he will persecute the Church of the living God, take his man, never his spirit, put it upon another. Look at those Pharisees and Sadducees, what scholars they were, how educated, how smart, how holy. They had to be born of a certain lineage. They had to come out of a certain tribe. They had to be so scholarly and so holy, but yet rejected Christ.

And I say it with respect, but the same things take place today. God is a moving with His Spirit through the earth, doing signs and wonders. And listen here, my friends; I don't want to scare you or harm you, but I want to tell you the truth. You're looking for something to happen that's already happened. The next thing's the coming of the Lord. It's went right over your head. You didn't know it. Remember the day you're living in. Take heed to what you're listening at. Wake up yourself.

God doesn't live in glamor. God lives in humility. Glamor comes from Satan. He lives in humility. When He was here on earth, He become the humblest among men, the poorest among men. Who was it wanted glamor? Satan. He wanted his kingdom greater than Michael's, so he set it up in the north, tried to outshine it, son of the morning (Isaiah 14:12-14). Now, notice when He was here then, after His temptation started, He went through and endured His temptation. How? Through the Word. **Stay in the Word.** [2]

We're saved not by works, what we do. It ain't what I done that saved me. It's what Christ done that saved me. See? I have no holiness.

And if I tried to say, "Well, I quit drinking. I quit smoking. I quit stealing, lying, so forth." That's what I done. That would be my own. I'd have something to brag about. But I didn't quit nothing. He just come to me and took it out of me. See? That's it. Then it ain't what I done. It's what He done.

And then, the Holy Spirit then abides in and grows daily; just grows, making Itself greater and greater; pushes out the things, the cares, the temptation. As you overcome them, the Holy Spirit takes Its place. If you got a real bad temptation of something that's not right; overcome that thing a few times, and watch if your testimony doesn't bloom on account of it. [14]

#### Reference:

[1] "Jesus Christ, The Same" (61-0118), par. E39

[3] "Believest Thou This?" (50-0716, Minneapolis), par. E57

[5] "We Would See Jesus, Sirs" (60-0109), par. E26

[7] "Abraham The Patriarch" (64-0207), par. 63-64

[9] "Water Of Separation" (55-0121), par. E10

[11] "Questions And Answers" (61-0112), COD pg. 515

[13] "Rev. Chap. 5 Pt 1, Bruised Serpent" (61-0611), par. 145

[2] "Sirs We Would See Jesus" (57-1211), par.E25-27+34

[4] "Believest Thou This?" (50-0115, Houston), par. E56

[6] "Laodicean Church Age", Church-Age-Book pg. 360

[8] "Spoken Word Is The Original Seed" (62-0318E), pg. 97

[10] "Ministry Explained" (50-0711), par. E16

[12] "What Is That In Your Hand" (55-1120), par. E30

[14] "Acts Of The Holy Spirit" (54-1219E), par. 39

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*There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.*

[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]