



CONVERSATIONS
WITH JESUS

Part Seven

The Prince of Darkness

What You Should Know About Temptation

“Satan is not a living being but is a symbol of evil.”

~2009 Barna Survey of American Christians

- **40% strongly agreed**
- **19% agree somewhat**
- **26% disagree strongly**
- **9% disagree somewhat**
- **8% are not sure**



“What I don’t understand is why I decide one way but end up acting another way doing the things I absolutely despise. I can’t seem to be trusted to figure out what’s best for myself and then do it. I need something more. A power within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions. I obviously need help and I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t do it. I decide to do good but I really can’t do it. I decide not to do bad, then I do it anyway. My decisions don’t result in better actions. Something gets the better of me every time. And it happens so regularly that it’s predictable. I’ve tried everything; nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?”

~St. Paul, Romans 7:15-24 (The Message)



The Believer and Temptation

- You will never be so great a Christian that you stop struggling with temptation.
- You will never become so holy that you will get a pass on temptation.
- But there is Someone who has faced every kind of temptation, and has overcome. He has offered to help you!



¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³The tempter came to him and said, *"If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*



4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"



⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

⁶*"If you are the Son of God," he said, "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.'"*

⁷Jesus answered him, *"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*



⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ *"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, *"Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*



**11 Then the devil left him, and angels
came and attended him.**

~Matthew 4:1-11



Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

~Hebrews 4:14-16



The Temptation of Christ

1. It was an assault against the will of God.

The tempter came to him and said, *“If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”* ~Matthew 4:3

Jesus answered, *“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* ~Matthew 4:4



The Temptation of Christ

2. It was an assault against the Word of God

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.'*"

~Matthew 4:6

Jesus answered him, *"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'*"

~Matthew 4:7



The Temptation of Christ

3. It was an assault against the worship of God.

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. *"All this I will give you,"* he said, *"if you will bow down and worship me."* ~Matthew 4:8-9

Jesus said to him, *"Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"* ~Matthew 4:10



“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

~Hebrews 2:18

“So let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

~ Hebrews 4:16

