



7/2/25

You know what I think is so cool? The word of God is called "the sword of the Spirit", AND we're called to pray "in the Spirit" and make supplication for "the saints". So... the coolest thing is to pray the word of God FOR each other. With that in mind, here's what I pray for you today, from Numbers 6:24-26, I pray "the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to You. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." Amen.

*Peaceful blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 4:1-12

The only offensive weapon in the whole armor of God is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." And I would add that the only other offensive strategy we have is prayer... in the Holy Spirit, who gave us the word of God.

So Lord, I pray that You will reveal to me what I can learn from Jesus' example of wielding my sword. Help me not to assume that because I've read it many times before that I have learned all there is to know. I know from Hebrews 4:12 that Your word "is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." I have no power like that apart from You. Please help me to acknowledge that and to sit at Your feet and learn. Amen.

Luke 4:1-12 ~ Jesus was just about to begin His three year ministry of sharing the good news of the gospel. In the previous chapter, John baptized Him, the heavens opened up and the Father openly spoke of His pleasure and love for Him, and the Holy Spirit came and rested on Him. I would think that was enough for Jesus to begin His ministry, but there was more.

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan (where He was baptized) and was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness." So He was FULL of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit rested on Him. Why did the Spirit lead Him to the wilderness? Shouldn't He be going to the people at

that point? Was it to have a commencement party to celebrate and cheer Him on? No! The HOLY SPIRIT led Him to the wilderness for 40 days where He went without food and was tempted by the devil!!!

Why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus to the place where He would be tempted by the devil??? In fact, Matthew 4:1 says the Spirit led Him there TO BE TEMPTED by the devil! That was the PURPOSE of going there!!! I think there are probably several reasons for this, but a huge one is that Jesus came to be my example. I'm called to walk in His steps. I can't do that if I don't know what His steps are. So He had to face everything I face and more in order to teach me how to handle those same circumstances. I know from personal experience that facing temptation gets harder and harder the longer I don't give in. And Jesus faced it on a severely empty stomach... without ever giving in.

James 1:12-15 says, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." Jesus endured to the end. The Holy Spirit did not tempt Him, the devil did. The devil is always waiting for an opportunity to tear us down. Jesus did not give in because He had (and has) no selfish desires. I do. I need the Holy Spirit's power in me and the example of Jesus to model after in order for sin NOT to be conceived in me and then bring forth death. I will drift toward sin without God's help. Jesus died so that I could be free FROM sin, not so that I could be free TO sin.

Jesus was in the wilderness without food for 40 days. I read that the devil tried to lure Jesus to sin with 3 specific temptations. By what Luke says, it appears to me that there may have been a lot more that aren't recorded. It says Jesus was there "for 40 days BEING tempted by the devil."

What were the 3 recorded temptations and why is it important that I know them? If I look back to Genesis 3 and compare it with 1 John 2:15-17, I see three reasons why Eve fell into temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. It was the same three things of the world 1 John 2 tells me not to love. And I think it was the same three things Satan tried to dangle before Jesus... Desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, and pride of life.

Desires of the flesh ~ After Jesus went 40 days without food, He was hungry. Satan said, "IF You are the Son of God (Satan knew fully well who Jesus was and is), command this stone to become bread." No, Michael Jackson and singers of "We Are the World", Jesus did NOT turn stone to bread. Instead, Jesus answered, "IT IS WRITTEN." Jesus used the one offensive weapon in the armor of God to stand against Satan's attacks so that I could do the same. One of Satan's most effective strategies with me is to make me think the word of God is intimidating, no longer relevant, or that I'm too busy for it. He knows that he can't argue with the truth, so he tempts me to believe that I don't need it.

But... Jesus, who IS the word, spoke the word ~ "Man shall not live by bread alone." What is the rest of that word? "Man shall not live by bread alone BUT by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." This is why I'm called to "let the word of Christ dwell in me RICHLY" (Colossians 3:16). How often do I use my feelings or human logic to stand against the lies? That won't work! My flesh can toy with my feelings and logic because they are ROOTED in my flesh. The devil loves to work with my flesh.

Desires of the eyes ~ Satan didn't even bat an eye when Jesus answered him with the word. He just moved on to the next temptation. Speaking the word once may not deter him. I have to STAND FIRM in the truth, and persevere, with the whole armor of God as my defense.

Satan took Jesus up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and said, "To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours." I don't know how Jesus didn't throw up on the devil right then and there. Those had to be the most horrific, repulsive words in His ears. Jesus didn't throw up, He spoke the truth. "IT IS WRITTEN, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him ONLY shall you serve.'" How disgusting that Satan tried to tempt Jesus with this challenge, knowing that he once bowed at Jesus' feet before he was thrown out of heaven.

This just cuts at my heart. How often have I traded the glory that belongs only to God for a counterfeit glory promised by the devil "through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared" (1 Timothy 4:2)? How often have I wanted the honor of people over the honor of God? O Lord, please forgive me. The greatest honor for me is to humble myself before the Lord and serve Him only. Father, my flesh cringes at that thought. The world teaches me that I'm less valuable if I don't buy into what it loves. "The world is passing away." There's no value in loving the things of the world.

Pride of life ~ Again, the devil did not argue with Jesus. He just tried a different approach; the same way he lured Eve into giving in to her selfish desires. He took Jesus to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple where the glory of God dwells and said, "IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, throw Yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Satan knows the word far better than I do, this is why I can't just study it for knowledge and try to wield my sword without the power and help of the Holy Spirit. Satan twists the word and leaves stuff out to deceive me. I see this happening in the world all the time, where people use parts of the word to justify their actions... leaving out the context that shows their actions are not justified. That's the strategy Satan tried to use here with Jesus.

Jesus knew exactly what the devil was trying to do... lure Him with the pride of proving how important He was. If Jesus would throw Himself down, the Father would have to command the angels to lift Him up. Jesus WOULD be lifted up... on a cross... in three years.

How often do I put the Lord to the test by trying to get Him to prove that I'm valuable to Him by demanding that He only loves me if He gives me what I want. Instead, I should be asking Him what He wants! How often have I told the Father that if He loved me, He would "guard me and bear me up" without considering my actions toward Him?

Jesus gave me the perfect example of knowing and wielding the sword of the Spirit. I need to KNOW His word, to cherish it in my heart, and stand firm in it no matter what temptations come. The devil may tempt me, but he can't MAKE me give in. I have the promise from God that when I cry out to Him for help, He will answer. He will provide the way of escape, that I may be able to endure it. ENDURE it. Not be without it.

I don't want to miss what it says in Luke 4:13, "And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." Let me not be deceived. The devil is ALWAYS looking for another opportunity to bring me down. That's why I need to be alert. And know that I may be blindsided, but the Lord never is. He will help me through every battle if I let Him. The more I have His word hidden in my heart, dwelling in me richly, the more ammunition the Holy Spirit has to work with. O Lord, help me to follow the Spirit wherever He leads, even if it's to the wilderness. Help me to remember that He can handle every situation He leads me to. Thank You for giving me everything I need. I trust You.