

“The Keys to Self-Control”

Matthew 4:1-11

New Hope Community Church

October 15th, 2017 - SERMON NOTES:

Key #1: Jesus was where He was because He had been led there by the Holy Spirit (1,2)

1. When we are struggling with self control, a baseline question needs to be, “**Am I where God has led me**”?
2. I must submit my **agenda** to God’s agenda
3. Where the Spirit leads me I will experience His **power**
 - ▶ This conviction will **free** us to go anywhere He leads us.

Key #2: Jesus clearly exalted the Word of God as His authority

1. He placed it in authority over His fleshly **appetite** (3-5)
 - Jesus was at a point of great **physical** want
 - Satan’s temptation was based on partial **truth**
 - First & foremost we are to live by **every** word God speaks
 - Denying the flesh **opens** the door to spiritual life!
2. He placed it in authority over His personal **will** (6,7)
 - Jesus had yet to be recognized as the **Messiah**
 - Satan’s temptation was based on a **counterfeit** plan
 - Daily dying to self will enables us to **avoid** counterfeits
3. He placed it in authority over a **visible** distraction (8-10)
 - Jesus was a King without an **earthly** kingdom
 - Satan’s temptation exalted a **false** god
 - The call of Jesus ends with “**follow me**” — eyes on Him!

Key #3: Jesus had one & only one supreme purpose: Accomplish the Father’s will

1. A purpose in conflict with God’s purpose for us will **clash** with the fruit of self control
2. As we daily commit to the call of discipleship, the Spirit through the guidance of Scripture **produces** self control

“It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2Th 2:14

MAY IT BE SO!!

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Week of October 15th, 2017 - QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Key #1 to aligning our life with the Holy Spirit so that He can produce in us the fruit of self-control is to make sure we are in a place where God has led us. (Matt 4:1 / Rom 8:14)
 - So how can we know we are being led by the Holy Spirit?
 - Can you share a time in your life where you clearly experienced the leading of the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Jesus used the Scripture to overcome each temptation. Scripture is not magic, so how does it really have power to enable us to overcome temptation and open the door for the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of self control in us? (Heb 4:12 / I Tim 3:16,17)
- 3) Jesus experienced the same kind of temptations that we face as well. It seems as though Satan tempted our Lord with the things that belong to the world system that the devil rules (I Jn 2:16) --
 - The lust of the flesh (vs 3-5)
 - The pride of life (vs 6,7)
 - The lust of the eyes (vs 8-10)
 - Do you see any parallel between these and the kinds of temptations you experience?
 - Give examples
- 4) As Jesus calls us ‘out of the world’ into salvation & discipleship, it seems possible that the three parts of His call in Lk 9:23 address each part that makes up the world system (I Jn 2:16)
 - The lust of the flesh → Deny yourself
 - The pride of life → Take up our cross
 - The lust of the eyes → Follow Me
 - Discuss this possibility
 - How does our commitment to each part of the call to discipleship affect our readiness for the Holy Spirit to bear the fruit of self-control in our lives?