

This week we continue our journey with Jesus from Eternity to the Empty Tomb. One of the key events in the life of Christ was His wilderness temptation experience. In this 40 days of testing, Jesus made the choice to follow God's plan for His earthly life. In the face of every temptation He choose to be obedient to God's Word. For the rest of His life on earth He found strength and direction from an on-going relationship with the Father.

In this **CORE** we are going to look at scripture dealing with temptation. The point of the Christian life is to imitate Christ. Because He was victorious over temptation and sin, we can be too! We must imitate Him in dealing with temptation. We too must use God's powerful Word to strengthen and direct our lives.

As you seek the truth of God in the following verses and attempt to apply the principles found there, rely on the Holy Spirit to be your guide. Jesus said that was part of His job in your life -- *John 14:26 "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit - the Father will send Him in My name - will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you."* HCSB and in *John 16:13 "13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth."* HCSB

You have been given the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit if you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. The Spirit is literally the Spirit of "Christ in you the hope of glory" according to Colossians 1:27. Allow Him to teach you, to move in you and guide you to a deeper walk with God. Have a glorious week!

## SECTION 1

Read -- I John 2:15-17 (Little John)

1. John gives the command - Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. Explain what that means in your life. Identify those areas of your life that would fit into this category.
2. John goes on to say that those who love the world do not have the love of God in them. What does this mean? Can you think of other verses that connect with this thought?
3. In verse 16, John identifies 3 categories of things that belong to the world. Think through each of these. What types of temptations or sin would you put under each category?
  - Lust of the flesh?
  - Lust of the eyes?
  - Pride of Life?
4. Verse 17 says the things of the world will pass away. Why do you think we put so much emphasis on those things that pass away?

How can you live your life today in order to be identified as "the one who does God's will."

## SECTION 2

Read Luke 4:1-13 then Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15

1. Did you notice the Luke passage indicates that Jesus was tempted the entire 40 days? Have you ever thought about that before? We have a tendency to think about his temptations being limited to only those 3 mentioned in the gospels. Yet according to Hebrews verses Jesus dealt with everything we deal with! Does that put a different perspective on your experience? No longer can we "say" to God, "You just don't understand how hard it is to ...". According to these verses this response is not an option. What

difference does it make knowing that Jesus had to deal with the same things you do? Does it bring comfort? Confidence?

2. In Hebrews 2:14-18 we see the humanity of Jesus clearly.

A. What is the reason Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us according to verse 14 and 15?

B. According to verse 16, you and I are more important to God than the angels. How does that make you feel?

C. Verse 17 says Jesus was made like His brothers in every way. Why? What are the implications of that truth? How does that affect you?

D. Verse 18 finishes with the statement, "He is able to help those who are in need." In the space below write down some areas of struggle you face. After writing them down, pray through them asking Jesus to help you in those areas. As you pray believe that He is willing and able to help you. Thank Him for the victory He is going to accomplish in those areas of your life.

### SECTION 3

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

1. In this passage we are told how to prepare ourselves for each day in the battle of temptation. There are 6 essential elements of Spiritual Warfare listed in this passage. Take each one and evaluate yourself on how well you use them. Ask the Holy Spirit of God to guide you in how to best equip yourself to fight this battle and come out victorious! Remember Jesus said, "Take heart (be courageous) I have overcome the world." Because He did, you and I can too! Glory be to God!

>Belt of Truth

>Breastplate of Righteousness

>Feet sandaled with the readiness of the gospel

>Shield of faith

>Helmet of salvation

>Sword of the Spirit - which is the Word of God