



**Overcoming the Wilderness of Temptation  
March 4 & 5, 2023**

**Matthew 4:1-2 (NLT)**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

**2 Causes of My Spiritual Wilderness:**

1. **God** – He allows it for a season to build my faith.

**Deuteronomy 2:7 (NLT)**

“For the LORD your God has blessed you in everything you have done. He has watched your every step through this great wilderness. During these forty years, the LORD your God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing.”

**Psalm 37:3 (NASB 2020)**

Trust in the LORD and do good; Live in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

2. **Satan** – He wants to kill, steal, and destroy my life.

**John 10:10 (TPT)**

“A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect —life in its fullness until you overflow!”

**Who is Satan?**

- A **fallen** angel

**Isaiah 14:12-16 (NLT)**

“How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. For you said to yourself, I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. Everyone there will stare at you and ask, ‘Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble?’”

## Who is Satan?

- A constant accuser of God's people

### Job 1:6 (NLT)

One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.

- A master deceiver

### Revelation 12:9 (GW)

The huge serpent was thrown down. That ancient snake, named Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was thrown down to earth. Its angels were thrown down with it.

- A counterfeiter of all that is good

### 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (TPT)

That doesn't surprise us, for even Satan transforms himself to appear as an angel of light! So it's no wonder his servants also go about pretending to be ministers of righteousness. But in the end they will be exposed and get exactly what they deserve.

## Jesus' 5 Steps to Overcome Temptation:

1

Realize temptation often comes after our greatest victories.

### Matthew 3:15-17 (NLT)

But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

2

Refocus on God's Word rather than the temptation.

### Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**"What I resist, persists."**

Temptation is always an opportunity to do the right thing.

### 2 Corinthians 10:5-6 (TPT)

We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One. Since we are armed with such dynamic weaponry, we stand ready to punish any trace of rebellion, as soon as you choose complete obedience.

### **Psalm 119:6 (CEV)**

Thinking about your commands will keep me from doing some foolish thing.

### **Temptation Always Follows a Predictable Pattern:**

- It gets our attention
- It sparks our arousal
- It tricks us into action

**3**

### **Refuse to let Satan define my identity.**

#### **Matthew 4:5-6 (NLT)**

Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

#### **Psalm 91:11-12 (TPT)**

God sends angels with special orders to protect you wherever you go, defending you from all harm. If you walk into a trap, they'll be there for you and keep you from stumbling.

#### **Matthew 26:52-54 (TPT)**

Jesus said to him, "Put your dagger away. For all those who embrace violence will die by violence. Don't you realize that I could ask my heavenly Father for angels to come at any time to deliver me? And instantly he would answer me by sending more than twelve legions of angels to come and protect us. But that would thwart the prophetic plan of God. For it has been written that it would happen this way."

**Jesus knew who He was and why He came; I must embrace my God-given identity.**

**4**

### **Recognize Satan has limited power and he's also a gigantic liar.**

#### **Luke 4:8 (NIV, paraphrased)**

"And he said to him, 'I will give you all the authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want.'"

- Satan has temporary power to do only what God allows.

#### **John 12:31 (ESV)**

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

- Jesus demonstrated that our power comes from surrendering to God.

## **Deuteronomy 6:13 (NLT)**

You must fear the LORD your God and serve him...

**5**

**Remember to focus on Jesus before I resist the devil.**

## **Matthew 4:11 (NLT)**

Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

## **Hebrews 4:15-16 (CEV)**

Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved grace, and we will find help.

## **James 4:7 (NLT)**

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## **How to resist the devil:**

- **Humbly surrender to God's will.**

## **Philippians 4:8 (TPT)**

Keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God, praising him always.

- **Actively put space between myself and the temptation.**

## **1 Corinthians 10:13 (TPT)**

We all experience times of testing, which is normal for every human being. But God will be faithful to you. He will screen and filter the severity, nature, and timing of every test or trial you face so that you can bear it. And each test is an opportunity to trust him more, for along with every trial God has provided for you a way of escape that will bring you out of it victoriously.

## **What test in my life is an opportunity to trust God more?**

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## **Luke 4:18-19 (TPT)**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and he has anointed me to be hope for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, and new eyes for the blind, and to preach to prisoners, 'You are set free!' I have come to share the message of Jubilee, for the time of God's great acceptance has begun."



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