

THE POWER TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1 (NIV) *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

James 1:13 (NIV) *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.*

Temptation #1: To Be Self-Serving

Matthew 4:2 (NIV) *After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "**If you are** the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

Matthew 4:4 (NIV) *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Satan's Seeds of Doubt:

- You deserve to be happy.
- Believe in yourself/You can do anything.
- You deserve it.
- God helps those who help themselves.

Temptation #2: To Be Powerful

Matthew 4:5 (NIV) *Then 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.'"*

What are some common attractive baits

- Money/possessions
- Sex outside of it's proper context
- A new relationship
- Appearance/image

Matthew 4:7 (NIV) *Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Temptation #3: To Be Spectacular.

Matthew 4:8 (NIV) *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."*

Matthew 4:10 (NIV) *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.*

My Next Steps

- Which temptation am I most likely to give in to?
 - To be Self-Serving
 - To be Powerful
 - To be Spectacular
- How can I dig into God's Word more?
- How can I recognize the bait of temptation?