

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Tried and True” Ephesians 6:10 Nov 18, 2018

Getting Started

God does not promise to deliver us FROM Spiritual Warfare, but THROUGH Spiritual Warfare. As Christ followers, the enemy cannot possess us, but they can oppress us. We are not exempt from the oppression of the enemy.

I Peter 5:8 - Be alert and sober minded. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

The enemy desires to destroy us by trying to tempt us and get us to give in to certain temptations. What are some of the temptations that the enemy uses on you in order to get you to fall?

Going Deeper: Matthew 4:1-11

1. **A Tension Recognized:** *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness”*

(Vs. 1)

a. **The Spirit’s Leading:** *“to be tempted by the devil”* (Vs. 1)

b. **The Savior’s Lacking:** *“after forty days and forty nights, he was hungry”* (Vs. 1)

Hebrews 4:15: *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in **every respect** has been **tempted** as we are, **yet without sin**”*

Notice that the Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness. This took place immediately after a “mountain top” experience in the baptism of Christ. Jesus was baptized, and then immediately led into the wilderness. Often times we will find that we are most vulnerable to the attacks of Satan after a major spiritual victory in our life. Satan desires to render us ineffective for

the kingdom of God. Can you think about a time in your life when Satan has used this strategy on you?

2. A Temptation Personalized: *“the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God” (Vs. 3)*

a. **Provide for Yourself (Appetite-Satisfaction-)** *“Command these stones to become loaves of bread” (Vs. 4)*

Satan’s Lie: God’s Not Good so Doubt God.

Key Concept: Lust of the Flesh: I deserve it! **Causing: Adam:** FEAR

Jesus: FAITH

Why is it that we often doubt the goodness of God? Share a story from your past where you doubted God. What did you learn from it? How has God stretched your faith as a result?

Isn’t it comforting to know that we have a Savior who understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses. Satan came after the humanity of Christ and tempted him with food. Satan will attack us where we are weak. He will try to exploit those weak areas. We need to recognize in our own lives, those areas of weakness and lean on the Lord for strength. How have you been able to do that in your life?

b. **Prove Yourself (Ambition-Success)** *“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down” (Vs. 6)*

Satan’s Lie: Your God so Deny God.

Key Concept: Lust of the Eyes: I’m entitled to it! **Causing: Adam:** GUILT

Jesus: GRACE

It all started in the Garden. Satan in the form of a serpent convinced Eve that God was holding something back from her, and through this process Satan persuaded Adam and Eve that they were entitled to know what God knows. If we are not careful we can easily fall into this same trap today. Society views success very different from how Christ views success. There

is nothing wrong with having “things” in this life, but when our motivation in life is to get those “things” then the lie of entitlement that Satan spoke of in the garden continues on. Have you find yourself falling into this trap? If so, share with your group.

- c. **Promote Yourself (Approval-Significant)** *“All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”* (Vs. 9)

Satan’s Lie: No Consequences so Defy God.

Key Concept: Pride of Life: I am it! **Causing: Adam:** SHAME **Jesus:** SONSHIP

Jesus could have taken a shortcut. All he had to do was bow down to Satan and the cross wouldn’t have been his to bare. However, our Savior did not take the easy way out. There was only one way for the sin of Adam to be reversed, and it was the Son of God becoming sin for us to save us.

3. **A Testimony Galvanized:** *“Be gone, Satan!”* (Vs.10)

- a. **Kingdom Authority: 2 Cor. 10:4:** *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds”.*
- b. **Biblical Inerrancy:** *“It is Written”* (3x) (Vs. 4,7,10)
- c. **Spiritual Priority: Galatians 5:16:** *“walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh”*
- d. **Personal Victory:** *“Then the devil left him”* (Vs. 11)
 - i. **1 Cor. 10:13:** *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful..*
 - ii. **Ephesians 4:27:** *Give no opportunity to the Devil.*
 - iii. **Col. 3:16:** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*
 - iv. **2 Cor. 10:5:** *Take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

Take Away: NOT TODAY SATAN!

Its evident in reading this passage that Jesus used scripture to combat the enemy. We to need to hide God’s word in our hearts in order to stand against the attack of the enemy. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we

can defeat the enemy. How has the Lord helped you have victory of the enemy in your life? Can you speak to a particular area in your life that through the power of Christ, you have said "Be gone, Satan"? How did you overcome that particular temptation?