

● **WARM UP**

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ you are enrolled in a spiritual warfare that rages daily for the hearts, minds, lives and destinies of people. Every believer must learn how to put on the armour of God, how to stand in faith, how to fight, and how to win. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

This unseen conflict is fuelled by hostile demonic spirits, is waged in the battlefield of the mind, and has outworkings in your life, relationships, finances, and the influence and legacy that you leave as a man of God. This conflict rages in many forms: temptations, accusations, fears, anxiety, depression, rejection, anger, lust, sexual sin, greed, jealousy, guilt, drunkenness, addictions and many other forms. No one is exempt.

● **READ** Luke 4:1-15

● **BACKGROUND**

Jesus was *"led by the Spirit"* into the wilderness for a time of testing. It was the Father's plan that Jesus would experience spiritual warfare prior to moving in the *"power of the Spirit"* (verse 14) and impacting the world.

No great advancement of the Kingdom of God takes place without the training and experience that comes from testing or proving how we will stand in the face of conflict and opposition. Training in spiritual warfare takes place in secret in our inner personal life, but the fruit of our inner victories has great external consequences in our life and relationships. What is on trial is our faith in the word and character of God; what is at stake is the release of God's blessing and favour.

The key focus of each temptation was to undermine Jesus' confidence in the Word of God that defined His identity and position of favour as a son (Matthew 3:17).

● **QUESTIONS**

1 **"I am what I do"** What did Satan tempt Jesus to do? (verse 3) Can you share an area where you most struggle with "sins of the flesh"? How did Jesus respond and overcome this temptation?

2 **"I am what I possess"** What did Satan tempt Jesus to do? (verses 5-7) In what ways do you struggle over issues of money, work or possessions? How did Jesus respond and overcome this temptation?

3 **"I am what people think"** What did Satan tempt Jesus to do? (verses 9-11) What would people in the temple have thought if they had seen this display? In what ways do you struggle with fear of rejection and try to get people to accept you? How did Jesus respond and overcome this temptation?

What is God saying to me?

● **LET'S PRAY**

● **REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S POWER**



I was working for a builder and a drain layer doing a lot of heavy work. I hurt my back and I was invited to a Bill Subritzky meeting. Bill said that there are people here with sore backs that need healing. I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me and saying that it was me. Bill pointed to me out of all the people. The Holy Spirit had told him that I had to bow seven times one way and seven times another way. I did and I felt my back was instantly healed. Andrew

● **CONSIDER THIS**



During World War II, US Army Brigadier General S.L.A. Marshall asked average soldiers how they conducted themselves in battle. Before that, it had always been assumed that the average soldier would kill in combat simply because his country and his leaders had told him to do so, and because it might be essential to defend his own life and the lives of his friends. Marshall's singularly unexpected discovery was that of every hundred men along the line of fire during the combat period, an average of only 15 to 20 "would take any part with their weapons". Those who would not fire did not run or hide - in many cases they were willing to risk greater danger to rescue comrades, get ammunition, or run messages. They simply would not fire their weapons at the enemy.