

Temptation where does it come from?

Many people have many views on where temptation comes from, some say from God, some say from the devil and they say this for various reasons, but let's look at some scripture. Firstly and foremost I have heard some say God tempts us just like he did with Jesus in the desert; sorry they are wrong, read the verse again in **Matthew 4v1**. God may lead us to places of temptation, trials and tribulations but **HE** does **NOT** tempt us. Also have a read of a few verses here **Matthew 6v13; Matthew 16v1; Matthew 19v3; 1Corinthians 7v5; 1 Corinthians 10v13; 1Tim 6v9; James 1v2; James 1v13-14**. 99% of the time Temptation comes either from the devil or our own lusts! God tempts no man with evil as we have read in one of the above verses, but God can "Try" us and see what we are made of but he will not use evil to do it, he may just lead us into a hard time of life, maybe like with bills or something whereby we have to trust him and rely on him, but as we read above as well God will not let us be tempted beyond that which we can bear and he will provide a way of escape!

Jesus was lead by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted of the devil. He fasted 40 days as well, and when the devil came to him he used the word of God to beat him with, he quoted scripture that he knew. So, basically I say here, Jesus set an example for us in his temptation, how many times do we get tempted, tried or have a struggle in life and we automatically revert to what the pastor said! What I mean is, many people I have heard that are going through a rough time "Parrot" what they have heard a pastor say or a preacher say..... One instance which happens too many is I heard someone one day say "I have been going through a rough time and I suppose that is what you get when ya get involved with ministry" or "Welcome to the Ministry". That is a lie from the devil!! To say that is basically to say "oh well the pastor goes through rough times and he said I would too so I suppose this is it". NO!

Too many times we allow the devil to work in our lives due to our own foolishness, yes even Jesus said trials and tribulations will come but he also said fear not for I have overcome the world! **John 16v33**. Who ever said that being a Christian means a smooth ride? Jesus **DID NOT** promise us a smooth ride but he did promise us **VICTORY** if we endure to the end. Personally I have had a real bad start to the year, I flipped out and done things I should not have, I lost control, yes I was tempted by the devil, yes I gave in to him, I could blame God in many ways if I wanted to, but I know for sure that even God did not lead me to that temptation, the devil did! He pushed my buttons and he knew how to get to me and he won a small round.

There are many areas we can be tempted from, but most of the time as the scriptures state it will always be something that is common to us **1Corinthians 10v13**. God always makes a way of escape as well. Take note in **Matthew 4** that Jesus was **not** tempted for 40 days; he was tempted **after** the 40 days! So what was his main temptation? Think about this..... The Temptation that Jesus had to endure was actually fasting for 40 days. Last month I talked about Jesus being human, how do you think you would go fasting for 40 days? Ever tried it? I have and I think the best I have done is maybe 10 days and gave up. Jesus showed us his humanity by fasting for 40 days and then the scriptures say he was hungry, actually I think it was a mistranslation; it should have said he was starving and could have eaten a horse.

I have reverted to reading only the gospels the last few months because I want to learn more about Jesus the man. Many times he would teach and preach and heal throughout the lands and then he would slip away to a mountain top and pray, it didn't say he took food with him either..... there we have it again, maybe he fasted. Sometimes he spent most or all of the night in prayer as well, why? I believe it was because of the temptation from around him that he needed strength from the Father, Jesus did not consult the beliefs of the Pharisees or Sadducees, no writings of the philosophers, astrologers, prophets of the time, or any teachers, and he consulted his Father in heaven. Who do we consult when we are going through rough times? Don't get me wrong, I am not against preachers or teachers, we need them, but what they teach us and what God can teach us can be two entirely different things.

We have some great teachers of the word of God today, but they are only to give us an idea, or a start to go and search something out on a subject, same as me, this newsletter is supposed to encourage you to read your Bible, that is why I don't put verses in, I want you to read them for yourself! What God shows me in a verse may be something different to what he shows you, when we listen to preachers we need to go home and think about what they said and seek God for what he has to tell us about the subject. We need to be more like Jesus when he said I only do or see or say what I see my father saying and doing etc etc..... Read **John 8v28**. What God has for someone else may not be what he has for you, what God taught someone else may not be needed for you. Lately I have been talking with many about how a lot of Christians Just "Parrot" people, preachers or ministries.

How many different churches do you see that sing and dress the same as Darlene from Hillsong church, I know a Pastor who stated to me that whatever he sees hillsong do, he copies it because they are successful and he will be successful too. How sad, that Pastor does this with his preaching too, he copies sermons, he has no fresh revelation from God for himself. I know some other Christians like that too, all they know is what their life was like and what God done for them in the early days, but I ask you, what has God done for you lately? We all have a calling on our lives, we need to find what that is, don't ask me, I don't know, ask God he knows!

Jesus spent a lot of time with his father, he was led of the Spirit, he spent time fasting, in prayer, preaching, healing, we should be the same. Yes, we can learn from others, but the **majority** of our learning should be coming from our own time with God either in the word or prayer or worship. I call it "A borrowed anointing" from others when we listen to preachers, we still need to get our own anointing from God ourselves, a borrowed one does not work very well for us, it is borrowed, it is not ours, it is not our revelation and therefore we don't have the faith to go with it, we need to hear from heaven for ourselves!