

## Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written,

"'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**Also read:**  
**Romans 8:31 - 39**  
**James 4:7**

Community Group Study 16 May 2010



### Introduction

Satan is a powerful adversary. The bible tells us that he is the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning. He is cunning and wields power beyond any mortal.

But the bible also tells us that we must not be afraid of him, especially when it leads us to sinful superstition.

Distinguishing the work of Satan from the word of God depends much on our familiarity and intimacy with God. As much as Satan uses scripture to tempt, we must use the word properly to resist him. To be able to do this we must read the bible with great passion.

We must also be confident in our relationship with God. We must know that our identity as sons and daughters of God is utterly and eternally secure. We must also remember that this status is not to be abused to serve ourselves.

We must, like Jesus, focus on the glory, heart and mission of God and resist the devil by the power and blood of Jesus Christ. We must remember that our victory over Satan is guaranteed because of the cross.

### Discussion

- >>How can we tell when Satan is using scripture to tempt us to sin?
- >>Does God ever reject or abandon his children?
- >>What happens to us when we allow Satan to tempt us effectively?

### Explanation

- >>What is the nature and character of Satan and his devils?
- >>Why does the devil tempt Jesus with those three temptations?
- >>How do we know that our salvation cannot be lost?

### Application

- >>How do we respond to the devil?
- >>How can we increase our passion for the word of God?
- >>How can we resist the temptation to use our status of children of God to benefit ourselves?