



Scripture Nugget - When truth is proclaimed, the power of evil is weakened

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards He was hungry. The tempter approached and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the Mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:1-4).

Jesus defeated Satan by proclaiming God's Word, the truth when He was tempted in the desert after His fasting. After His Baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where He fasted for forty days and forty nights. He was very hungry, and the devil seized the opportunity to tempt Him. Satan challenged Jesus to turn the stones into bread to prove that He is the Son of God. To defeat Satan, Jesus merely proclaimed the truth: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the Mouth of God (cf. Matthew 4:4). Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. Satan went away, defeated for the moment. There was nothing he could do when truth was proclaimed and upheld. Such is the power of God's Word, the truth. He had to wait for another opportunity. The second opportunity came, and this time Satan brought Jesus to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem and tempt Him to prove He is Son of God by throwing Himself off the parapet, at the same time Satan quoted Scripture that angels would protect Him from being hurt. Again Jesus proclaimed Scripture: "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." (cf. Matthew 4:7). Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:16. Satan was given a third opportunity to tempt Jesus. He took Jesus to a high mountain, showed Him the kingdoms of the earth and promised to give all these to Jesus if He would worship him! Jesus again proclaimed the truth from Scripture: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve (cf. Matthew 4:10). Jesus was proclaiming Deuteronomy 6:13.

Your Word is truth (John 17:17). The Word of God being the unchanging truth has the power to expose falsehoods, lies and deception all of which are hallmarks of the work of Satan. When proclaimed aloud with faith, the Word of God which is the Sword of the Spirit (cf. Ephesians 6:17) gives strength, light and healing to those who trust in it. *Indeed, the Word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).* When we trust God's Word and embrace it with our heart and mind, it can help us uncover the falsities in our thinking, form our conscience in the truth, expose the prejudice and injustice in the inner recesses of our heart and prevent our heart from hardening due to hidden sins. The Word of God has power over our body, soul and spirit. Jesus tells us "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the Mouth of God." (cf. Matthew 4:4). Thus, it is a good and necessary spiritual exercise to study and meditate God's Word daily if we want to grow in faith and holiness.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word of God. I cannot claim to know You if I do not know Scripture, God's written Word. Give me a great love for Scripture so that I know, love and live the truth, and no falsehoods of the Evil One can be found in my mind or heart. Jesus, You are the Eternal Truth. Consecrate me in the Truth. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.