

February 1, 2015

“Speak Up”
Fresh Start Series #4

Text: Luke 4:1-13

Our common enemy is the devil. Ref: 1 Peter 5:8; John 10:10; Eph. 6:12

If you're going to make it in the Christian life, you need to know how to stand up to the enemy and win the battle against temptation.

Jesus was tempted as we are. And because of that, I know that when I face temptation, I'm not alone. Ref: Heb. 4:15

THE NATURE OF TEMPTATION----FOUR TRUTHS

1. Temptation is often most powerful when you're right in the c_____ of God's will.

Luke made it a point to say that Jesus was full of the Spirit and he was being led by the Spirit when he entered into this season of temptation.

Success often causes us to drop our guard, and make room for the enemy. Ref: 1 Cor. 10:12

When you are right in the center of God's will, when you are poised to do something great with your life, you become the devil's target. When you've got something good going on, he wants to take it from you. It's the nature of spiritual warfare, and the nature of temptation.

2. Temptation usually hits you at your most v_____ point.

In my counseling ministry, I find that Satan gains a foothold when you are Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired. An easy way to remember is by the acronym HALT.

3. Temptation often comes as a d_____ of the truth.

That's the nature of temptation. It whispers in our ear just enough of the truth to distort our thinking and convince us to do what we know deep down isn't right.

If you want to be successful in the Christian life, never allow yourself to take refuge in self-justification; hold yourself to the standard of truth.

4. Temptation is never g_____ for good.

UNDERSTANDING TEMPTATION-----THREE QUESTIONS

1. What do I really need?

2. What do I really want?

Want is a keyword. Worship and service is an act of the will. You get to decide what you ultimately want in life. Do you want the world to glorify you? Or do you want your life to glorify?

3. What do I really believe?

We face an enemy who, as Jesus said, comes only to steal, kill and destroy. That's what the enemy has come to do ... but do you know what Jesus has come to do? Ref: John 10:10

You dear children are from God, and have overcome them because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is on the world. 1st John 4:4