

POWERPOINT COPY: God in the First Person:
Temptation: Tough Times and Evil Influences

Luke 4:1-13 (NIV) Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, *"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."* 4 Jesus answered, *"It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"* 5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, *"I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 So if you worship me, it will all be yours."* 8 Jesus answered, *"It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"* 9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. *"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."* 12 Jesus answered, *"It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

- Sand traps are difficult moments or situations when my life lands on a tricky surface that requires a different response than normal.
- John 16:33 - In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
- The devil is a master at sizing us up for when we are most vulnerable, where we are most vulnerable, and how we are most vulnerable.
- *Nothing can destroy your relationship with God like tough times when the enemy gets involved uncontested*

Satan Gets To Us in Tough Times When:

1. We try to Satisfy Our APPETITES on Our Own.

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, *"It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

2. We Try to Find ACCEPTANCE on Our Own.

v. 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, *"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

3. We Try to Fulfill our ASPIRATIONS on Our Own.

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, *"Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"* 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- Here is the offer: You can get everything you want – but lose everything you are.

WHEN SATAN ATTACKS

Luke 4:13: “And when the devil had finished every temptation,
He departed from Him until *an opportune time*.”

“*An opportune time*” means a moment in which the conditions are most favorable for Satan to attack. The temptation of Christ in the wilderness was an *opportune time*.

What were some of the characteristics of this *opportune time*?

- **Danger Zone #1-** AFTER A SPIRITUAL VICTORY
Luke 3:21-22;
Luke 4:1
- **Danger Zone #2-** WHEN YOU ARE ALL ALONE
Luke 4:1-3
- **Danger Zone #3-** WHEN YOU ARE PHYSICALLY
DRAINED
Luke 4:2-
- **Danger Zone #4 -** WHEN YOU ARE WAITING ON GOD
Luke 4:5-7
- **Danger Zone #5-** WHEN YOU’RE IN A PLACE THAT YOU
THINK YOU DON’T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT ATTACKS
... like God’s House
Luke 4:9-11
- **Danger Zone #6 -** WHEN YOU’RE STARTING SOMETHING
GREAT FOR GOD
Luke 4:14-15

THE WOW FACTOR: *How to Win Over Temptation:*

1 Cor. 10:12-13: So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! **13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

W. WORD OF GOD

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

You're Not Alone

You're Not Strong Enough

God's Word is Life

Rhema = 3 parts

O. OBEDIENCE TO GOD

"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

W. WORSHIP OF GOD

10 Jesus said to him, *"Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"* 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.