

Lent 2023 Week 1: I Need The Holy Spirit

Description

1Then Jesus was led by the [Holy] Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by
5Then the devil took Him into the holy city [Jerusalem] and placed Him on the
'He will command His angels concerning You [to serve, care for, protect and wa
and 'They will lift you up on their hands, So that You will not strike Your fo
7Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written and forever remains writ

Matthew 4:1-11 AMP

Lent is a very important time personally, and I believe for the whole body of Christ because what it symbolizes for me is a time of sacrifice AND intentionality reflective of what Christ underwent during his 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. Christ was led to the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to commune with God, and be prepared for his ministry and ultimately his purpose on Earth. However it was also the place where satan presented himself to Christ to tempt him into forfeiting his heavenly assignment and purpose in exchange for a false blessing/elevation. Christ was able to withstand the temptation successfully for two reasons that I'd like to discuss:

- He was filled with the word
 - John 1:1,14 says that in the beginning was the word, and word was God, and the word was with God.....and the word BECAME flesh. It is important to understand this concept that Jesus was the fulfillment, embodiment, and evidence of the word that since the beginning had brought all things into being. Jesus I believe had inspired the text of the old testament that had established life, prophesied his coming, and given the people a prescription for living a life worthy of God's calling. When he was tempted by satan in the wilderness, Jesus recalled, and weaponized the word/scripture that he embodied which is required to defeat satan. For each of satan's lies and misrepresentations of Godly truths, Jesus knowing the word, believing the word, and being filled with the word released it to counter satan's claims. Jesus was filled with the word BEFORE the testing and temptation which enabled him to not be deceived in a time of vulnerability. A very powerful phrase I heard recently is, "We don't rise to the level of our competition, we fall to the level of our training." This means that you can't do what you haven't prepared for, but you WILL fall according to your lack of preparation.
- He was LED by the Holy Spirit
 - This is a very important distinction that people in the body of Christ miss, and unbelievers don't understand. Jesus didn't arbitrarily decide to go into the wilderness, or try to test satan using his personal abilities. Because the Holy Spirit fell on Jesus after his baptism, and led him to the wilderness to pray and commune with God, it was the Holy Spirit that quickened, and strengthened him during his time of testing. Had Jesus chosen to go into the wilderness without the Holy Spirit aiding him, and if he'd tried to fast from food and water for 40 days solely through willpower and determination then he'd have failed; either through death, or exchanging his heavenly crown for an earthly one. Oftentimes we are out of touch with God, therefore we don't have his spirit, and are unable to discern his leadings from our

own motives.

Reflection Time

I think this is a good place to start for the Lent 2023 journey. Take some time to read this passage, and pray for the holy spirit to help you discern, and hear the voice of God.

Category

1. Faith

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