



Luke 4:5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

“The devil led him up to a high place and **showed** him...” In part, the strength of temptation has to do with proximity, with how easy it is to reach out and take that which is forbidden. This is why the Apostle Paul warns us to flee from temptation (1 Timothy 6:11, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:18). In Matthew 6:22-23, Jesus says “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” Therefore flee proximity from temptation as we pursue proximity to our heavenly Father.

“When we’re tempted (either by our own desires or the nudgings of the devil) I don’t think the point is to make us do the unthinkable - at least not at first. The goal is to make the unthinkable more and more reasonable.” (Steven James, *Flirting with the Forbidden* p. 24)

Prayer: Pray for a heart to pursue only what is of God and to flee from different areas that tempt you through proximity. Pray that your heart is aligned with Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

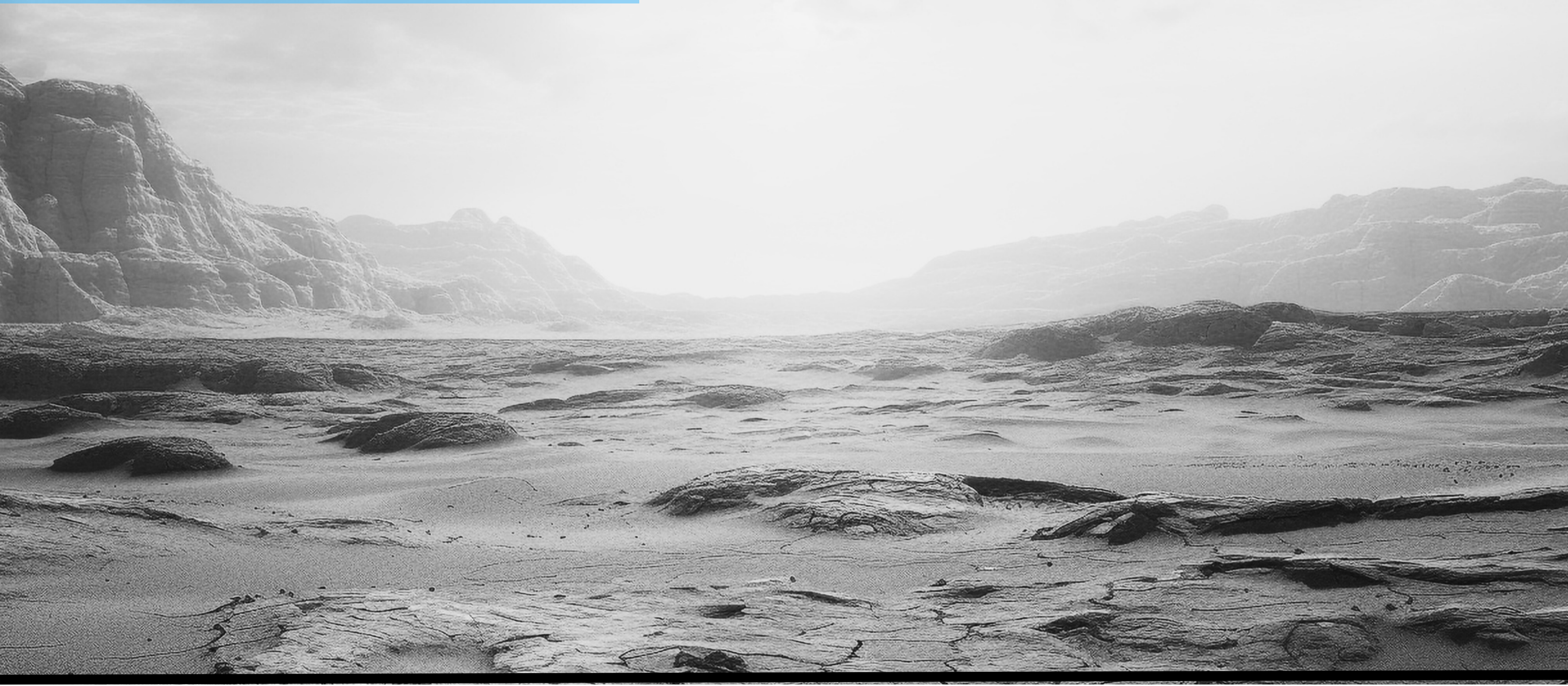


Luke 4:6-7 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.” So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. (Exodus 7:8-12)

‘Satanism is essentially all about self; it literally forces you to turn inward in such a way that all of your thoughts are dominated, by the desire to please the self. It makes you a slave to every lustful selfish notion that the flesh can invent. It’s about as close to hell on earth as you can get.’ (Michael Leehan, Ascent from darkness pp. 28-29).

Prayer: Pray for all those who are captured by the Satan’s seduction - that by God’s power and grace they will be set free. Pray that God will consistently turn our hearts away from selfishness and towards others as we seek to Love God, and Love others (Mark 12:30-31)



Luke 4:8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:21, 24-34)

Prayer: Pray for God’s love to be alive in you, pushing away distractions that can so easily dissuade us in our worship and pursuit of God.



Luke 4:9 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.

“I do not accept glory from human beings, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God[d]? (John 5:41-44)

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in [Jesus]. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God (John 12:42-43).

Prayer: Pray against pride taking root in your heart, against the desire to prove ourselves for the glorification of ourselves. Instead, pray that our actions lead to God glory, not our own.



Luke 4:10-11 For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.””

“...this study is important because exegetical fallacies are painfully frequent among us - among us whose God given grace and responsibility is to the faithful proclamation of the Word of God. Make a mistake in the interpretation of one of Shakespeare’s plays, falsely scan a piece of Spenserian verse, and there is unlikely to be an entailment of eternal consequence; but we cannot lightly accept a similar laxity in the interpretation of Scripture. We are dealing with God’s thoughts: we are obligated to take the greatest pains to understand them truly and to explain them clearly.” (D.A Carson, Exegetical Fallacies, p. 15).

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1:22-25).

Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth, not looking at the Bible for what we want to receive from it, but pray for a heart to receive what God wills for us from His word.



Luke 4:12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said. (Deuteronomy 6:4-19)

Prayer: Pray that you will not forget God’s faithfulness in your life, but pray with thanksgiving for everything that God has done for you. Pray that you won’t return God’s faithfulness by testing God’s faithfulness, but that your response will be to seek faithfulness to God in return



Luke 4:13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

“In the account of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness we see the prince of the forces of darkness in all his fiendish cunning and determination intent upon causing the failure of God’s plan of redemption. But we thank God that we also see how our Redeemer, even under the most adverse circumstances (spiritually as well as physically) emerges from the conflict as the spotless and Holy One, as well as triumphant Conqueror. And how wonderful it is to know that this conflict and victory of His took place not merely for His own sake but also, as our Leader and Representative for our sake. Therefore we know that through Him we also are conquerors and that we must display this fact in practice for the glory of God” (The Gospel of Luke, Norval Geldenhuys, p. 163).

Prayer: Thank Jesus for His example, for His suffering in His example that illustrates His unbelievable love for us. Jesus willing put Himself in extremely grueling circumstances because His love for us goes beyond what we can possibly fathom.