

# GOD AND HIS WORD WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

About 4 weeks ago, I had, I guess what some may call, a major operation. I had a double bypass of heart vessels and an Aortic valve replaced along with the Aorta itself. They went in the front way, therefore they had to break apart the breast bone and go in the “front way.”

It has been an “interesting” time in which things had been going well until this past Sunday when I had a memory lapse for about two hours. My wife, Trish had to call the paramedics, in which when they came to the house they had asked me some questions. One of which was who was the president. When I had answered George Bush needless to say they took me away to the hospital.

When we got to the hospital, I started to come around and got back into “real time.” Ultimately, they released me and I came home that evening. I really did not know what had happened. Trish told me what took place when I was home with her. The things she told me I could not even begin to remember. It was a total blank. As if I had lost two hours of my life and I did not remember anything – and I still don’t.

Anyway, I have been to the doctors to get checked out but nobody has any clue as to what had happened. They all have thoughts and ideas but nothing definite. As of now, I am fine and back to the recovery stage of doing my exercises and going to physical therapy.

The reason I had just told you this whole incident was not for anyone to feel sorry for me or to think anything of this event that happened to me. No, the reason I shared this experience is because it gives me pause to think of the situation that many people are in today.

Many people are just in a place where they are numb and lost and are just going along without the reality of life itself. They are in a dream world or possibly even a “fog.” They may know that things for them are not right but they just continue on. They say things and even think things, but they know down deep that what they are saying and thinking does not make sense – to themselves or to anyone else. However, they continue to just “go on.”

Many who say they believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, inwardly, feel like they may be in a “dream world.” The times we are in with everything that is happening around us can bring us all to a place of confusion and even bring us to a place of possibly even doubting the truth about Jesus. I know that I may be pushing the point but, hey, it is possible that many that may be reading this article are having inner struggles with things such as this.

The bottom line is that our faith in Jesus and Father God along with the Holy Spirit are being tested and tried. To some it may not seem so and I praise the Lord for that. However, to others there may be an attack – a very strong attack - that comes against our faith, belief and trust in the One and only true Living God.

Now, this is nothing new. There has always been an attack against the believers. The real enemy is satan and his forces of darkness. We must never forget that. The devil and his entourage has always planned and schemed to thwart God’s plans and infiltrate and infect the lives of His people with their evil thoughts. What is happening today is no different. The ways and means may be different but the attack is still from satan and his forces of darkness. That is the one thing we can be sure of.

The other thing that we can be assured of is that the only thing that will thwart and destroy the attacks of the enemy is the pure and true Word of God. Even when the trials and situations may seem as though they may seem logical and real, we must remember that the only thing that is truly real is God and His Word. Everything else will pass away but we know that God and His Word **never** will.

If we take a look back into the scriptures we can see a very similar time in Jesus' life. It was early in His ministry but it was a vital time for Him and for each one of us. We see this found in Matthew 4. It was immediately, after Jesus was filled with the Spirit at His baptism by John the Baptist.

We see in Matthew 3:16, 17 that immediately following His baptism by John, the Holy Spirit "*descended upon Jesus.*" God, the Father, pronounced with a voice from Heaven saying in Matthew 3:17, "*...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" For many of us, this would seem to be the fitting conclusion to the life of the Son of God upon this earth. However, as we know, it was just the beginning. The very first thing we see that took place after the Father boldly declared that Jesus was the Son of God was that, as we continue to read in Matthew 4, immediately Jesus went into the desert to be tempted by the enemy.

We see that this was not orchestrated by the devil because God had pronounced His Son to the world. No, this was something that was meant to happen for we see in Matthew 4:1 that Jesus was, "*...led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*" Yes, immediately after this triumphant announcement by the Father concerning Jesus in Mathew 3:17, we see that the first thing that happened was that Jesus was sent into the desert, by the Father and led by the Holy Spirit, for 40 days to be tempted and tried by the enemy, the devil.

Before we go any further, I would like to simply point out that the Bible tells us that immediately after the baptism of Jesus and the announcement of the Father declaring who Jesus was, that Jesus immediately was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where Jesus was attacked and questioned by the devil for 40 days. The irony in all of this is that first we see that Jesus was baptized and immediately we see the Father and the Holy Spirit along with Jesus in the scriptures. We get our first glimpse of the three in one God.

In retrospect this would seem as if it would make a fitting conclusion to the story. However, we see that it is truly, just the beginning. For it tells us that right after we see the magnificence of the three in one God we see that Jesus' ministry was not finished but rather it was just beginning. The first thing on the list was to go and confront the devil. This lasted, as we know, for 40 days and 40 nights. Now, I know that there is much that we can say concerning the 40 days and nights but that is for another discussion.

For our discussion, I would like us to look at what took place at the conclusion of these 40 days and nights. The scriptures tell us that the "tempter" came to Jesus. This is important for us to truly grasp. It specifically tells us that the "tempter" came to Jesus. This is the role of any devil – to tempt - but especially this one. Now, was this Lucifer? Possibly. Could it have been another tempter? Possibly. We are not really told. However, whichever it may have been their main task was to tempt Jesus and cause Him to sin.

The definition of the term "tempter" used in this scripture means one who is used to try or test one's faith, virtue and character by enticement to sin. This is exactly what the enemy did with Jesus. He tested Jesus' faith, virtue and character through the enticement to sin. This is exactly what the enemy still does to every born again believer – he tests and comes against each one of us with the "enticement to sin." Hmmm....

We read of the final three enticements of Jesus by the "tempter" in Matthew 4:3-10. They are there for us to learn from so that we will know how to defend ourselves from and also how to attack the enemy when he comes against us. Let us read these scriptures.

*"... If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. <sup>4</sup> But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him up into the holy city, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> And said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God. <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all*

*the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup> And said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. <sup>10</sup> Then said Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”*

We are all very aware of these scriptures. We have read them numerous times. However, have we really taken them to heart? Do we really hear what is happening in these scriptures? I know that each of us has heard messages from these scriptures. I am not going to go in depth into them but I would like to peruse through them and maybe share some things.

As we know, we read of three “temptations.” We can refer to them as “temptations” because they are presented to Jesus by one who is called the “tempter.” We see in the beginning that the tempter states to Jesus very clearly, “*...If you are the Son of God.*” That is the key to this whole passage of scripture. Is Jesus the Son of God? Well, we know that He is. The key to any tempter’s questioning is to immediately cast doubt on the person they are going against. That is why the tempter asks his question in this way.

Jesus could immediately have fallen into this trap by expressing that He definitely was the Son of God. After all, the Father in the previous verses tells everyone that Jesus was the Son of God in whom He was well pleased. However, we see that Jesus did not get caught up in that. He knew who He was and He did not need to argue with the tempter concerning this point. Actually, the tempter uses the same verbiage in his second temptation in which we see Jesus again does not acknowledge the tempter concerning that. Instead Jesus uses who He is, the Word of God to thwart both of the tempters attacks.

We see in the first two temptations that Jesus immediately, answers the tempter by saying that “*...it is written.*” We can say that Jesus uses the Word but we must remember that Jesus **IS** the Word of God. This automatically answers the question that He is the Son of God and that He is the Word of God because He uses the Word as His defense because He is the Word of God.

We know that the tempter first tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread. We must remember that Jesus had not eaten for 40 days. This is a great temptation. It is hitting Jesus in His most vulnerable position from the start. He tempted Jesus with something that would be very easy and tangible for that moment in time. It would be easy for Jesus to do that – turn the stones into bread. However, Jesus was in the spirit and being led by the Spirit. Therefore, His flesh was not in control but the Spirit was. Jesus, who is the Word, was telling us that our real life comes in and through the Word of God. That is the real world – the spirit realm.

The tempter again tells Jesus, “*...If you are the Son of God...*” cast yourself off the cliff and God will send His angels to protect Him and no harm will come to Him. Jesus again, being in the Spirit answers this temptation with the true Word of God. As a side note, the tempter was using the Word of God with this temptation. He was using Jesus, Himself, to come and confuse Jesus. Unfortunately, for the tempter Jesus knew the Word and its proper usage. After all, Jesus was and is the Word of God. The scripture that the tempter used is found in Psalm 91:11 and 12.

This is an important note for each of us to grasp. Jesus response to the tempter was “*...Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*” This seems like an odd reply to this particular temptation. However, it really isn’t. It is truth. When we have a difficulty God will definitely be there to help us. However, we are never to put God to the test just to show that we have faith in Him or to “prove” that He is God. That is not what our life in Him is all about. His Word and God, Himself, is always there when we need Him. When or if we would do such things we are literally giving into the tempter and actually being used by the tempter to tempt and cause God to sin – which He never could nor would He ever do.

This is another thing we all must grasp and understand. God is not our “magician.” We are never to try to prove that God is God by having Him do something just to “prove” Himself to others. This is most important for many believers to grasp and comprehend. This is where, I believe, many have fallen into this trap and have really chased after the wrong god and not the true Living God of all. Jesus tells us to not follow after this kind of foolishness. We are never, I repeat never, to put God to a test because if we do it is we who will fail – not God.

Finally, we see the tempter try to tempt Jesus with all the “kingdoms of this world.” The key here is the term, “the kingdoms of **this world.**” As a believer and true born again child of God, we are never to look upon the things of this earth as having lasting value. The scriptures are clear. Everything on this earth will pass away. Everything including the devil, who right now is allowed to rule over this earth will one day be totally defeated and cast into the “lake of fire.”

The only thing, and I mean the only thing that should be, or rather must be important and is truly vital is that, as Jesus said, “...for it is written, *Thou shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall thou serve.*” Again, we Jesus use the Word of God as He states, “...for it is written...” That is the crux of our faith. That is everything we need and must stand on – the Word of God. No other word - only God’s Word.

We see that Jesus states that God is the one and only true Living God and it is only He that we are to worship and to serve. We are to worship only God and Him alone. We are to serve God as He directs us to serve Him and not what others tell us is serving Him. That has gone on for too long. The time has come because we are getting nearer to the end of time. We are to simply worship and serve Him, the true Living God. As Jesus said, “... him **ONLY** shall we serve.”

In these times we are in, it is most important that we grab a hold of these truths and stay with them. We are constantly being told many things by well meaning people. However, we must look past the “well meaning” things and look straight forward at the truth that has been and is there for us to all walk in – the Word of God. Yes, it is the Word of God that is the truth – from Genesis to Revelation. If you have God’s Spirit within you than you will hear Him. You will hear His truth – His Word.

Yes, it can be spoken by people but make sure that we are hearing His truth. We have the Word of God for ourselves. Hang onto, hold onto and never let go of the Word of God that has been given to us. Read His Word from reliable Bibles – not someone’s interpretation of what the Bible is saying – but truly look into the unadulterated and pure Word of God.

The time is short. The end is coming and is near - nearer than most of us would like to think. Whatever the case may be, even if it is not the end times, we know that God has reached out in every generation to those who are His to always be ready and prepared for His return - even if He didn’t come. That was never the point. The point was never His return but the real and true point is that His people, His true believers must always be ready for His return when He does return.

As Jesus told the tempter and as He is telling us as it was written for each of us to grasp and understand, “...*Thou shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall thou serve.*” This must be the true believer’s main thought and main hope to hold onto in the world that they are in. This world will one day “pass away.” However, our God, His Word (Jesus) along with the Holy Spirit will never, I repeat, will never pass away. Do not get lost in the “fog” along with the lies and deceptions that are out there.

Remember, everything else will pass away but we know that God and His Word will **never** pass away!!!