

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“HOW TO USE THE WORD OF GOD”

The Bible is the word of God. The word of God is powerful. It has the power to overcome temptation. It has the power to get the devil running away from you. As Christians we are constantly surrounded by temptations and it is easy to give into them, but Jesus wants to give us victory over them.

Jesus is not only our saviour but also our example. Let's see how he handled temptation using the word of God. Matthew 4:1-4. “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” (Jesus had a human body that needed food to sustain it. He was at his weakest as far as his human body was concerned) “The tempter came to him.” (Notice the tempter came when he was at his weakest, just like he will come when we are at our weakest) “And said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” (Well, Jesus was the Son of God and is the Son of God and yes, he had the power to change those stones into bread but was it the will of God for him to change the stones into bread? Was it God telling him to do it? No it was the devil telling him. The devil was trying to get him to sin appealing to his natural desires.

The devil does the same to us, appeals to our natural desires. It was not wrong for Jesus to feel hungry but it would have been wrong for him to gratify that desire by doing something God did not want him to do. So it is with us, it is not wrong to have natural desires but we sin when we gratify them outside the will of God. Let's see how Jesus handled it.)

“Jesus answered him, “It is written: “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Jesus knew the word of God. He was quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3. He spoke the word and the power of the temptation was broken. We read in Psalm 119:11, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Jesus did just that, he read the word, meditated on the word, memorised the word and hid the word of God in his heart and when temptation came, the right word came to mind and he spoke it out and defeated temptation.

As he does with us the devil tried another cunning trick. Jesus had used the word of God at him so he decided to use the word of God back. There is a big difference between the word of God rightly used and the word of God wrongly used. Christians can be led astray by someone wrongly using the Word of God.

V's 5-7) “Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple, “If you are the Son of God,” he said,” throw yourself down. For it is written,

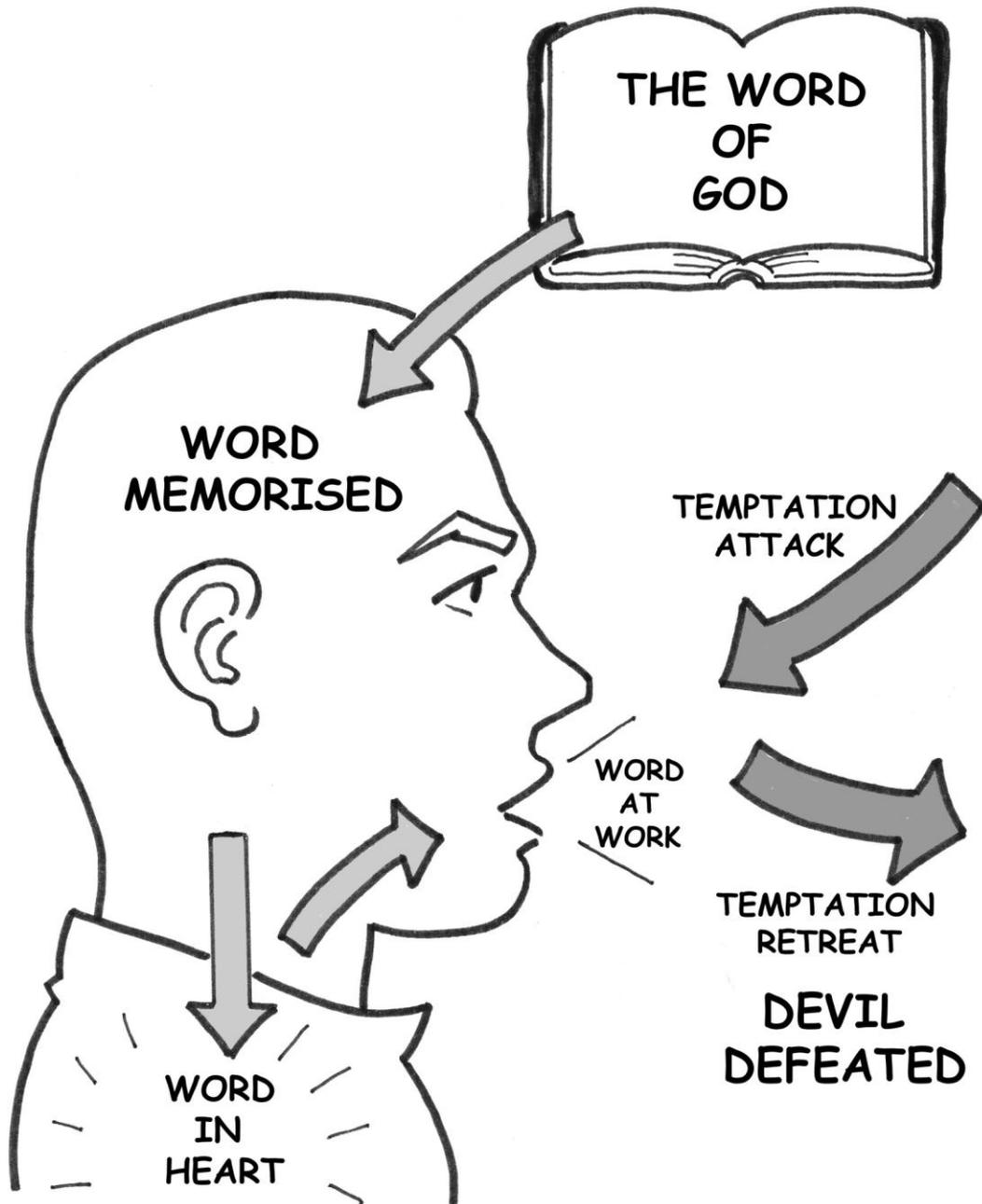
“He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Psalm 91:11,12 He is using or quoting from the word of God to get Jesus to do something that God is not telling him to do. Almost as if he was saying to Jesus, “Jump off the highest pinnacle of the temple and shout ,”Look at Me everyone! I’m the Son of God, just watch the angels catch me, aren’t I clever.”

Every miracle Jesus did was because he had compassion on people never to show off. The devil was taking the word out of context just like all false teachers do. We read v 7) “Jesus answered him, It is also written: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” He is quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16. It is a little bit like if I turned to Psalm 32 :7 “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble.” and claimed it, then got into my car and driving off with my eyes closed saying, “God has promised to protect me, God has promised to protect me from trouble! I would be testing or tempting God to act for me and probably end up crashed into a lamp post. False teaching will always lead us into some kind of excess.

The devil kept trying, we read v) 8-10 “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “If you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me Satan! For it is written; “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”

The temptation to pride, power and self glory can get to us but could never get to Jesus, he answered the devil back quick, “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only” Again as Jesus spoke the Word it was the final blow that sent the devil away. “God only, God only, not you Satan, God only.” When our hearts are saying it and our mouths are saying it, Satan or the devil cannot beat us. Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13. Where it says to fear or worship the Lord alone and serve him alone.

So how do we use the Word of God? We read it, meditate on it, memorise it and speak it against the temptations of the devil. Just as it says in James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”



**THIS IS WHAT THE
WORD OF GOD
CAN DO FOR YOU!**

FRANK HUTCHINSON