**Overcoming Pt 2 – Temptation (Matthew 4:5-7)**

You defeat the Enemy when you recognize the temptation for what it is. Before saying anything else, let us first give glory to God today, because He has given us all things (for our good and His Kingdom) in the heavenly dimensions. God sacrificed His own Son for us and God sent His Spirit for us, specifically. He did that so that we would not remain alone on this planet, having to deal with our spiritual Enemy by ourselves. Today’s subject is focused on recognizing temptation. An important stage of any spiritual battle is recognizing what the temptation really is. Jesus did that (in His desert temptation experience), and our subject for today deals exactly with that. You defeat the Enemy when you recognize the temptation for what it is. Therefore, let’s move onto the main subject of the day…

Jesus was alert to recognize the wrong intention of the Enemy – as believers, such spiritual alertness is our calling is as well. It was painfully ridiculous that the devil thought he could confuse Jesus (with his second temptation). He had not succeeded in duping the Lord with his first temptation, not having been able to use Jesus’ physical exhaustion against Him. This time around, he was hoping to muddy the waters of Jesus’ spiritual life and use the Scriptures with evil intent.

Yes, it is possible to use the Bible in an evil way. For example, Satanists today use John 8:44 (which were Jesus’ words against His opponents) as a source of encouragement for their activities. That verse says that they (the Pharisees, etc.) belonged to their father the devil, who was the father of lies. I saw this verse printed on the back of a t-shirt once. The enemy intended to convince Jesus of the truth of his lie with a wrongheaded quote from the Scriptures.

Today, we also are to be alert to words and deeds that spring out of a wrong intent and a wrong heart. Even if a wrong deed was committed by a clean heart, a personal relationship could be saved and protected. However, when deeds are done and words said out of a wrong heart, only human beings are glorified and human relationships can be destroyed.

Often, when we find ourselves in facing temptation, we forget God’s role as God and we come to him with demands that we impress upon Him as mandatory. “Lord, you HAVE to do this because…” Or, “Lord, here I am in an impossible situation – you HAVE to solve my problem in THIS way.” This type of attitude was the enemy’s temptation. If Jesus threw Himself down, He would, in effect, be telling God that He had to save Jesus because God had said in His Word, in the 91st Psalm that He would save. However, God the Father is not under neither our nor Jesus’ jurisdiction. We also, ought to avoid agreeing with the wrong purposes of the Enemy and from deeds based on them, as well as avoiding the idea that says that God is obligated to perform our desire or need based on our difficult situation.

May the Lord give us the wisdom needed for such instances. Jesus was alert to recognize the wrong intention of the Enemy – as believers, such spiritual alertness is our calling is as well. You defeat the Enemy when you recognize the temptation for what it is.