

To remain in the word      Luke 4:1-44

We've been studying the Gospel of Luke together. Today we will study cp. 4. The title of today's study is "to remain in the word."

### 1. Three temptations

#### v.1-2

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

Jesus was baptized in water as a man. And he was filled with the Holy Spirit. And Jesus went into the wilderness, and there he was tempted by the devil.

From v.3 to 12, three temptations were recorded.

- (1) The temptation to use God to satisfy his belly.
- (2) The temptation to get power and glory for himself.
- (3) The temptation to listen to someone other than God.

These three temptations will also come to us. We have to remember that being tempted itself is not sin, but if we give way to the temptation, we will sin.

#### v.14

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Pay attention to the phrase, "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit".

In v.1, Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, went into the wilderness. And in v.14, "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit".

That is, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will not automatically be clothed in the power of the Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, the power of the Spirit is already in us. But if we don't use the power, it is the same as not having the power. Or if we don't know how to use the power, it is also the same as not having the power.

What did Jesus do, when he was tempted by the devil in the wilderness? He spoke the Word of God. When we spoke the Word of God, God's power will be fired like a missile. But, we cannot just speak any Word at random for God's power. There is a way to use it.

Just being filled with the Holy Spirit is not enough. We need to activate the power of the Spirit. We need to learn to use the power of the Spirit in us. The key is to “remain in the word.”

Luke cp. 4 shows us three elements about “remaining in the word.”

1) To live by the word. 2) To accept the authority of the word. 3) To respond to the word.

Let’s look at these three elements one by one.

## 2. To live by the word

Let’s go back to v.1. Jesus went into the wilderness. Who led him there? The Holy Spirit led him. Not the devil. What happened in the wilderness? The temptations by the devil. The Holy Spirit led Jesus not into a palace, but into the wilderness. And what he experienced there was not God’s glory, but devil’s temptations.

God doesn’t always lead us to where it is convenient for us. God doesn’t always allow us to live in comfort. God doesn’t necessarily make us always happy.

When someone faces problems or inconvenience, it will become very clear whether he is led by God’s Word and live by the Word, or he serves his belly and desires and lives to satisfy them.

If he is really led by the Word and lives by the Word, even if his belly is not satisfied and he comes into uncomfortable situation, he will continue to be led by the Word, remain in the Word and trust in the Word.

But if a person serves his belly and desires, when something inconvenient happens because of his faith, he will stop coming to church, stop reading the Bible, stop praying and of course stop praising, offering and ministering, no matter how often he spoke God’s Word with others so far. Before he may have been saying, “God is wonderful. He is full of love!”, but when he faces problems, he is filled with complaint against God and a church, and a pastor.

## James 1:14-15

<sup>14</sup> but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is fullgrown, gives birth to death.

People who serve their bellies and desires and live to satisfy them will give way to devil's temptation and deceived by his trick easily.

Then what about Jesus?

#### v.2-4

<sup>2</sup> (in the desert) where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.' "

Jesus was in the wilderness. He didn't eat anything for forty days. Of course he was very hungry. And it was the Holy Spirit who led him there. But, Jesus didn't complain to God, or doubted Him. Jesus was tempted to use God to satisfy his belly. But by proclaiming the Word, he rejected devil's temptation. He was living by the Word.

### 3. The authority of the Word

#### v.14-16

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues, and every person praised him. <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

#### v.22

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

People heard what Jesus said, praised Him and amazed at the gracious words.

#### v.28-29

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff.

After people heard more of what Jesus said, they were filled with anger, and dragged Him out of the town; and tried to throw Him down over the cliff.

Here it says, "all the people". That is, it includes those who, at first, were amazed at his gracious words. They got so angry when they heard Jesus' words. They change their mind so quickly. Just short while before they were amazed at his gracious words, and now they drove Jesus out of the town, and tried to throw him down over the cliff. What can we learn from them?

The point is not to be marveled at Jesus' gracious words or to be amazed to know that Jesus' word had authority and power. But the point is whether we accept the authority of Jesus' word or not.

When we notice that Jesus' word has grace, authority and power, the point is not just to see that Jesus' word has grace, authority and power. But the point is whether we accept the grace, authority and power of his word and live in them.

No matter how well we understand that Jesus' word has grace, authority and power and talk about it with others, if we ourselves don't accept the grace, authority and power and live in them, it is meaningless!

Not believing, not obeying or not paying attention to Jesus' word or ignoring it is the same as not accepting Jesus' authority.

At the immigration counter, why do you follow their words? Because you accept their authority. On the street, why do you follow police' hand sign? Because you accept their authority. When we chose to not follow Jesus' word, but to follow our thought, we deny Jesus' authority,.

People who don't accept the authority of Jesus will give way to devil's temptation and be deceived by his trick easily. Because we cannot overcome devil's attacks without depending on the authority of Jesus.

What about Jesus?

#### v.5-8

<sup>5</sup> The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup> So if you worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' "

Jesus didn't try to get authority and glory for himself. He sought to serve God and bring glory to God. And by proclaiming the Word, he rejected the devil's

temptation. He understood the authority of the Word and he put him under the authority.

#### 4. To respond to the word

##### v.41

<sup>41</sup> Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

This world is full of information. They come into our ears, eyes and mind through all kinds of media, on every possible occasion. There are evil things that we can tell the moment we hear about it. There are popular things in the world, but which we can't possibly accept in church. And there are also some which exactly agree with the Bible.

Here in this verse, demons said about Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" They knew that Jesus was the Christ. This exactly agrees with the Bible. There seems to be no problem. But, Jesus rebuked the demons and didn't allow them to speak.

Jesus had set people free from the bondage of demons and the rule of Satan, and he received them into His kingdom. They are the redeemed people. So, Jesus doesn't allow demons to bind those who belong to God's kingdom again. He doesn't allow Satan to rule those who belong to God's kingdom again.

But, it's a different story when you chose to listen to the word of the devil. If you listen to the word of the devil, sin or the world, and agree with it, then the devil, sin and the world will again influence you a little, and gain a little more control over you and finally rule you again completely.

We don't have to listen to the words of the devil, even though they quote from the Bible or completely agree with what the Bible says. We don't have to ask the opinions of sin. We were set free from them. We were saved from them. We were received into the Kingdom of God. We don't have to study who Jesus is from the devil. We don't have to listen to the words of the world, even though they quote from the Bible. We can have direct fellowship with Jesus, who is the Word itself, so we will listen to Jesus. We have the Holy Spirit in us, who will help us to understand the Word, so we will turn our heart to Him. We can hear the voice of God, which says, "You are My beloved Child; in You I am well pleased," so we will listen to Him.

People who listen to the word of the devil, sin or the world will easily give way to the devil's temptation and be deceived by his trick.

What about Jesus?

v.9-12

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Jesus wouldn't listen to the word of the devil, even though he quoted the word from the Bible directly. Jesus didn't receive his word. And by proclaiming the Word, he rejected the temptation of the devil. This is how he lived with the word.

Temptation to listen to someone other than God. That will surely come to us too. We need to reject it clearly, immediately, without hesitation. And we need to listen to Jesus, who is the Word itself. "To remain in the Word." This is the secret to live in the power of God.

## 5. To remain in the word

Then, what does it mean "to remain in the Word"?

v.42

<sup>42</sup> At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.

This is a very interesting verse. Why did the people seek Jesus? What was their motive for keeping Jesus from leaving them?

They heard Jesus' word and received his blessing. They had experienced God's power. They tasted God's blessings. And now they wanted to receive more. They sought after Jesus, tried to keep Him from leaving them. And they asked Jesus, "Please stay with us, we want to hear more from you, we want to receive more from you."

Was Jesus pleased with them? Did he answer their request?

v.43-44

<sup>43</sup> But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." <sup>44</sup> And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Jesus didn't answer their request. "To remain in the Word" is not to seek Jesus, come to Jesus and ask Jesus, in order to just receive more.

To ask Jesus for more is one thing, and to remain in Jesus is another thing. To hear the Word and experience God's grace is one thing, and to be led by the Word is another thing. To hear the Gospel and know it is one thing, and to live by the power of the Gospel is another thing.

#### v.43

<sup>43</sup> But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

Jesus had just one purpose. To preach the kingdom of God. Jesus' heart was occupied with this. The people eagerly tried to keep Jesus from leaving them. But Jesus didn't change his mind. He didn't listen to the voice of temptation.

#### v.38-39

<sup>38</sup> Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.

<sup>39</sup> So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law. Then what did she do? She immediately arose and served people. Of course, she served Jesus also. She immediately started to share the love she received from Jesus with others.

Jesus heals and strengthens people by his grace, so that they can arise and serve others.

The Bible says "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5) Jesus took upon himself all the pains we might experience on the earth.

Jesus doesn't want us to be in pain. He will answer our prayers, and give us healings and solutions in many different ways. We need healings, encouragement, strength, rest, blessings, grace from Jesus. After receiving those things, then what will we do? That is the point.

Jesus didn't bear our griefs and carry our sorrows so that we may just enjoy his blessings one after another by ourselves. Jesus didn't do it so that we

will always receive care from people around us and we may enjoy comfortable life.

#### v.40

<sup>40</sup> When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

How did the sick people come to Jesus? They couldn't come to Jesus by themselves. They had someone bring them to Jesus.

Then, what kind of people brought them to Jesus? It may not have been just one person, but four people might have brought one person. Any way, they were those who had enough strength to carry the sick, and knew how they could meet Jesus. In short, those who have experienced Jesus' grace, and live in his power will bring those who are weak, who need solution, liberation and salvation to Jesus.

Jesus heals and strengthens people by his grace, so that they can arise and serve God and others.

We understood that we deserve God's wrath. We heard the Gospel and believed it. We repented and were saved. And, we remain in Jesus and Jesus remains in us, and we live a new life. Why was the Holy Spirit given to us? What is the work of the Holy Spirit within us?

#### v.18-19

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

This is the Spirit we are filled with. This is the power we have received. This Holy Spirit is in us. He lives in us. He moves about energetically. He is guiding us, talking to us. And now He is still trying to do these works through us.

God gives us the Holy Spirit so that we can preach the Good News with others. God gives us his power so that we can stand up and go to others to share grace of God's kingdom. By His grace God comforts, encourages and strengthens us when we are weak, so that we can demonstrate the power of God's salvation. God clothes us in his power, gives us victory over devil's temptation and deception, so that we can continue to be witnesses of His presence with others in the world.

Today, we have studied the theme “to remain in the word.”

People who remain in the word will live by the word, accept the authority of the word, and respond to the word. They will make the heart of Jesus their heart. And not just the Holy Spirit is in them, but they are clothed in the power of the Spirit and live by the power of the Spirit.