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Victory over Temptation

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **May 4, 2014**

Deuteronomy 6:13-16; Matthew 4:4-11

Introduction: Moses, in this chapter, goes on with his charge to Israel, to be sure to keep up their religion in Canaan. It is much the same with Deuteronomy 4:1-40 **I.** His preface is a persuasive to obedience, Deuteronomy 6:1-3. **II.** He lays down the great principles of **obedience**. The first truth to be believed, That God is one, Deuteronomy 6:4. The **first duty** to be done, To **love him** with **all our heart**, Deuteronomy 6:5. **III.** He prescribes the means for keeping up religion, Deuteronomy 6:6-9. **IV.** He cautions them against those things which would be the ruin of religion--abuse of plenty (Deuteronomy 6:10-24), inclination to idolatry (Deuteronomy 6:14,15), and gives them some general precepts, Deuteronomy 6:13,16-18. **V.** He directs them what instructions to give their children, Deuteronomy 6:20-25, &c.

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/view.cgi?bk=de&ch=6#1-3>)

Deuteronomy 6:1-2, Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest **FEAR the LORD (Jehovah [Yahweh]) thy God**, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that **thy days may be prolonged**.

Thought 1. Notice, their days could be “prolonged”, meaning “to lengthen.” This is a spiritual principle found all through God’s word, as well as, in the New Covenant.

Psalm 91:14-16, Because he hath set his LOVE upon me, therefore (for this reason) will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my **name (authority)**. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With **LONG LIFE** will I **satisfy him**, and shew him my salvation.

Thought 2. If we’re not satisfied, as we DO our part, he’ll bless us to live on.

Proverbs 3:1-2, My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For **length of days**, and **LONG LIFE**, and peace, shall they ADD to thee.

Ephesians 6:1-3, Children, **OBEY** your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with **promise**;) That it may **BE WELL** with thee, and thou mayest **LIVE LONG** on the earth.

Deuteronomy 6:3-13, Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to **DO IT**; that it may **be well** with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath **PROMISED** thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The LORD

our God is **one (alone) LORD (the self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah [Yahweh])**: And thou shalt LOVE the LORD (Yahweh) thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Ephesians 4:4, 6, There is one body, and... ..One **God (supreme [highest] Divinity)** and Father of all, who is ABOVE ALL, and through all, and in you all.

Thought 1. Jesus is God the Son, but God the Father is the ONE highest God.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be IN thine **heart (MIND)**: And thou shalt **teach** them diligently unto thy **children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he **swore** unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to **give thee** great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt **have eaten** and **be full**; Then **beware** lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt **FEAR** the LORD thy God, and **serve** him, and shalt swear by his name.

Fear defined 3372, yare' pronounced yaw-ray' a primitive root; to fear; morally, to revere; **REVERENCE**.

Reverence, profound (deep) **RESPECT** and **ESTEEM** (high value, great regard) mingled (mixed) with FEAR and **AFFECTION (LOVE)**... (1913 Webs. Dict.) The fear acceptable to God, is a filial (becoming a child in relation to his parents) fear, an awful reverence of the divine nature, proceeding from a just esteem of his **PERFECTIONS** (the infinite power, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom of God...), which produces in us an inclination (leaning) to his service and an unwillingness to offend him.

Thought 2. Reverence is the ONE reason anyone **OBEYS** God. Lack of proper reverence is also the ONE reason people **DISOBEY** him.

Proverbs 14:2, He that walketh in his **uprightness (the right)** **FEARETH** (reverence) the LORD: but he that is **perverse (to turn aside)** in his ways **DESPISETH** him.

Despiseth defined 959, to disesteem (to slight [to neglect: to forbear { stop, PAUSE, refuse} to treat with attention or RESPECT]).

Deuteronomy 6:14-15, Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD (Yahweh) thy God is a **jealous** God among you) lest the **anger** of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

NOTE: Jehovah has betrothed you to himself as a **bride** is to her **husband**. Do not be UNFAITHFUL, else that **love** wherewith he has now distinguished you shall assume the form of jealousy, and so divorce and consume you.
(<http://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/view.cgi?bk=de&ch=6#1>)

Deuteronomy 6:16, Ye shall not **tempt** the LORD your God, as ye **tempted** him in Massah.

NOTE: This, of course, is one of the passages from Deuteronomy that Jesus used in vanquishing the Devil on the occasion of the Temptation (Matthew 4:7; Luke 4:12).

Eerdman's explanation of this passage is as follows: "To tempt God is to put him to a TEST, or to TRY to **make him** act in a certain way to **prove** his goodness and power. Thus in Massah, when the people needed water, they cried out in **unbelief**, saying, **'Is the Lord among us or not?'** (Exodus 17:7).
(<http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/view.cgi?bk=4&ch=6>)

Matthew 3:16-17, And Jesus, when he was **baptized**, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending **like a dove**, and lighting upon him: And lo a **voice** from heaven, saying, This is my beloved **Son**, in whom I am well pleased.

Thought 1. When God spoke so that the people at the baptism of Jesus could hear his voice, we know Satan also heard him. This is worth mentioning because of the specific temptations that are about take place in Jesus life.

Matthew 4:1-2, Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** of the devil.

And when he had FASTED **forty days and forty nights**, he was afterward an **hungred**.

Mark 1:12-13, And immediately the Spirit **driveth (drive [urge forward by force])** him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the **angels ministered** unto Him.

Thought 1. We see that God's leading of Jesus into the wilderness to face Satan's temptations was by an intense urge in his spirit. At times, he still leads this way.

Matthew 4:3, And when the **tempter** came to him, he said, **If (forasmuch as [SINCE].)** thou be the **Son of God**, command that these stones be made bread.

Thought 1. As I said earlier, we know that Satan heard God say Jesus was his son, so "If" is not a matter of trying to get Jesus to doubt. As God's son, he's just being tempted with his OWN desire for food! James explained in scripture that we are tempted by our own lusts (desires). He's speaking of God-given desires a human should have; but satisfy the right way!

1 Corinthians 10:13, There hath no **temptation** taken you but such as is **common** to MAN...

James 1:14 ...every man (man, woman) is **tempted**, when he is drawn away of his **own** lust (desire), and enticed.

Thought 2. At first glance, it seems Satan is trying to get Jesus to misuse God's power. But, actually Satan is trying to get him to accept the EVIL thought about a misuse of God's power. So, if Jesus had just TAKEN the thought, he would've been THINKING EVIL, which is a SIN. Jesus taught this truth to his disciples concerning adultery.

Matthew 5:28 ...whosoever looketh on a woman to **lust after (long for)** her hath committed **adultery** with her **already** in his **heart (MIND: thoughts or feelings)**.

Thought 3. Knowing this truth, some people say, "I'm guilty, so, I might as well DO it!" No, that'll do more harm!
So, with this sin, and others, this is not God's wisdom.

1 Corinthians 6:18, Flee **fornication (harlotry [including adultery and incest])**. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication **sinneth** against his **own body**.

Matthew 15:18-19, But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the **heart (MIND)**; and they **defile** the man. For out of the **heart (mind)** proceed **evil** thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness...

Thought 4. Another truth is the miracles done by Jesus, were actually done by God the Father IN him! Jesus could do nothing of himself! So, if he'd accepted the thought, the desire would've been there, but IF, it wasn't God's will, nothing would've happened.

John 8:28, Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up (*crucified*) the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing **OF myself**...

John 14:10 ...but the **Father** that **dwell**eth in me, **HE doeth** the **WORKS**.

Thought 5. Finally, for the thought to COME to Jesus' mind from Satan was NOT him thinking it. So, for him to hear it was not a sin! But, it was tempting! It's not a sin to be tempted. As we know, if we yield, that's sin. Dr. Hagin made plain this truth in a teaching I heard many years ago. He said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but, you can keep them from building a NEST there!"

Matthew 4:4, But he answered and said, **It is written**, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every WORD** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Thought 1. Notice, he resisted, NOT by the power of the Holy Spirit, but, by the WORD of God that he was taught by his Father; and of which, he had a good understanding.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds (argument** (reasons offered to induce belief or convince the mind));) Casting down **IMAGINATIONS**, and **every high thing** that exalteth itself against the **knowledge** of God, and bringing into captivity **every thought**...

Imaginations defined 3053, conceit [that which is conceived, imagined, or formed in the MIND].

Thought 2. This makes plain why it's so necessary to teach God's word to the babes in Christ. Their ability to fight rests upon the understanding and wisdom gained from his word. Being unskillful, they'll be tossed to and fro until they grow up.

Hebrews 5:12-14, For when for the TIME ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth **milk** is **unskillful** in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**. But strong **meat** belongeth to them that are **of full age (mature)**, even those who by reason of USE have their **senses** exercised to discern both good and evil.

Ephesians 4:11-15 ...he gave some, apostles; ...prophets; ...evangelists; ...pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying** (building up in Christian knowledge; improving the mind) of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **PERFECT man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more **children (infant; immature Christian:-babe)**, **tossed** to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but **speaking the truth** in **LOVE**, may **grow up** into him in all things...

Psalms 119:130, The **ENTRANCE** of thy words giveth **light (illumination of mind)**; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Entrance defined 6608, opening (revealing; interpreting) **(fig.) i.e. disclosure** (the act of making known what was concealed).

Proverbs 24:5, A WISE man is **STRONG**; yea, a man of **knowledge** increaseth strength.

Proverbs 24:10, If thou **faint (slacken, cease)** in the day of **adversity (trouble)**, thy strength is small.

Ecclesiastes 7:19, Wisdom **strengtheneth** the **WISE** more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

Colossians 1:9-11, For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be **filled** with the **knowledge** of his will in all **wisdom** and **spiritual understanding**; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the **knowledge** of God; Strengthened with ALL **might**, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness...

Thought 3. Remembering Jesus is about 30 makes us aware of the truth that this is not the first time he's been tempted. All of us can remember to some degree the temptations with which we were faced as teenagers. And even as adolescents growing up; knowing the difference between good and evil, we were tempted to do wrong. And more than likely, most of us yielded on many occasions due to not reverencing God at that time.

However, Jesus was tempted "in all points" just like us, "yet without sin!" And also, it's worth mentioning, he resisted ALL of these temptations BEFORE he was filled by the Spirit! This proves being "filled by the Spirit" is for work as witnesses for God.

Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come **upon** you: and ye shall be **witnesses** unto me...

Hebrews 4:15 ...we have not an high priest which cannot be **touched** with the **feeling** of our **infirmities (feebleness of MIND or body.)**; but was in **all** points **tempted** LIKE as we (*Christians*) are, yet without sin.

Thought 4. Only a 100% human being tempted would know the feeling of the infirmities of other 100% humans in the midst of temptation! If Jesus was just 1% God, he'd have an advantage no other human ever had, including the first Adam! It would have made it easier for him to resist temptation! This is because ...God can't be tempted with evil... James 1:13. But, as we know, scripture says he was made a human being! And we, who are born again, are just like him: EQUAL with God in nature, since we too are his sons.

John 1:14, The **Word** was **MADE** **flesh (a human being)**

John 5:18 ...the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God **was** his **Father**, making himself **EQUAL** (like in NATURE) with God.

1 John 4:17, Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because AS he (God) IS, SO are WE in this world.**

Thought 5. Being born of God is what gives us the ABILITY to overcome the temptations of the world and live right! This was the case with Jesus in the earth!

1 John 5:4, For whatsoever is **BORN** of God overcometh the world: (*the temptations*)

Thought 6. The strength to fight off temptation comes from reverence and faith IN God and his word. This is "living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" of

which Jesus spoke. James 4:7, ...submit to God, resist the devil, and he'll flee from us.

James 4:6, But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God **resisteth (oppose)** the proud, but giveth **GRACE** unto the **humble (lowly [submissive])**.

Grace defined 5485, the divine (proceeding from God) **influence** (POWER) **upon the heart** (MIND), and its reflection in the life; including gratitude.

Matthew 4:5, Then the devil **taketh him up** into the holy **city**, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple...

Taketh him up defined 3880, to receive with the MIND by oral transmission.

Thought 1. This temptation was also brought to his MIND. Satan doesn't have the power to take Jesus anywhere in his "physical body"! Jesus had the anointing without measure; and wouldn't have allowed Satan to do as it seems. But, he could not stop Satan from speaking the thoughts to his MIND and showing him things.

Matthew 4:6, And saith unto him, **If (SINCE)** 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.

Thought 1. Here, we see Satan will even use God's WORD in his effort to deceive us into yielding. It'll be out of context and/OR he'll add and/or omit words. But, in every case, he's lying, because that's all he does! So, if he's speaking, he's lying!

John 8:44, Ye are of your father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the **truth**, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaketh a **LIE**, he speaketh of his own: for he is a **LIAR**, and the father of it.

Lie defined 5579, pseudos psyoo'-dos from 5574; a falsehood (deceit, departure from MORAL integrity [purity] 1913 Webs. Dict.).

Liar defined 5583. pseustes psyoos-tace' from 5574; a falsifier (one who gives to a thing a DECEPTIVE [having power to mislead] appearance).

Matthew 4:7, Jesus said unto him, **It is written again**, Thou shalt **not tempt** the Lord thy God.

Thought 1. Becoming skilful with God's word keeps us from being tricked by Satan.

Matthew 4:8-9, Again, the devil **taketh him up** (in his MIND) into an exceeding high mountain, and **sheweth** him ALL the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I **GIVE** thee, if thou wilt fall down and **worship (do reverence to)** me.

Thought 1. This was a temptation to him to not go to the cross and die!

Matthew 4:10, Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: **for it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou **serve**.

Thought 1. To whom we yield ourselves to obey, that's who we're serving. Rom 6:16

Matthew 4:11, Then the devil **leaveth** him, ...behold, **angels** came and **ministered** unto him.

Luke 4:13 And when the **devil** had ended all the **temptation**, he departed from him for **a season**.