

CASTING DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS

But He Answered

- I. **Jesus gave the enemy no place by quickly casting down wrong thoughts-Mt4:1**-Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted (entice to sin, test, try) of the devil. ²And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. ³And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴But 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. ⁵Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶And saith 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. ⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.
- A. The enemy was tempting Jesus to operate in a way that would give him access into Jesus' life
1. Why does the devil want you to sin? For the devil, it's all about access-His evil thirst cannot be quenched until he can steal, kill and destroy, but he can't do that without access and so access is what he is all about and it's what he is after
 2. To the devil it's not about the sin, it's what the sin affords him and it affords him access to steal, kill and destroy-Sin is not the end game for him (Ha! I got you to sin!) – **He wants in and sin lets him in**
- B. The enemy starts **with** the mind, he starts in **on** the mind-He has no new tricks; He was this way in Gn3 and still is this way
1. Everything he wants to do in your life begins with him introducing a thought to you-Verse 3 is a thought; He introduced a thought to Jesus and it is a thought Jesus had never had before
 2. When the devil speaks to us it manifests as a thought (like when God speaks to us)-Jn16:13
 3. If Jesus thinks on that thought, it'll get in him and he'll operate in line with it and give the enemy access
- C. But he answered (respond, speak)-Right here is where victory lies – *When you have a wrong thought do you answer?*
1. Jesus didn't think, he responded and he spoke-He didn't ponder, pause, think about what the devil said to him
 2. He didn't respond to that thought with a thought-He didn't respond by thinking to himself, "No, that's not right."
 3. This was audible-If you were there you would have heard him say out loud, "It is written."
 4. You don't cast down thoughts with thoughts; You cast down thoughts with words
- D. The enemy is looking for a passive, lingering silence in response to his words-Stop, pause, consider what he is saying because that is yielding to the thought and it gives him room
1. When the devil said something, Jesus said something-Never should the devil say something and we say nothing
- E. The importance of **quickly** casting down wrong thoughts is paramount-Spiritual things build, gain momentum, get stronger
1. When do you cast down a wrong thought?-Now!!!-This report exalted itself against the knowledge of God-**Mk5:35**
There came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why trouble thou the Master any further? ³⁶As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, *Be not afraid, only believe*
 2. The more you develop in casting down wrong thoughts the quicker you get it at
- F. Jesus cast these thoughts down immediately and by doing so he gave the enemy no room-Mt4
1. He couldn't get anything in him, he had nothing he could use-Because Jesus dealt with these thoughts quickly-**Jn14:30**
*The prince of this world comes and hath nothing in me; **AM**-No claim on me, no power over me nor anything he can use against me*
 2. The enemy left Jesus because he had no place, no room, had nothing to use, he couldn't get in
- G. You get rid of the devil by casting down wrong thoughts quickly-He won't like getting smacked in the face with The Word

- II. She entertained the wrong thought and gave the enemy place rather than shutting it down like Jesus did-Gn3:1-**
The serpent was more subtle (Cunning-Skillful, deceitful; Crafty-Sly; Prudent-Wise) than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: ³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶ And when the woman saw (considered, perceived) that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat