

We learned yesterday that Jesus was the best example of prayer. He is our model.

*Luke 18:1 KJVS And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

This means that prayer is the opposite of fainting. Our biggest problem is not satan. Satan is not all-powerful. If he was, he would not need to tempt people. He could just make them do what he wants. But when you understand God's plan, you will see why satan had to use temptation. God knew that man had something to protect himself from when He created him. He gave man a hint by telling him to take care of the garden. But man did not get the hint. The biggest enemy of man is himself.

*Matthew 3:17- Matthew 4:1 KJVS And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

Adam was also a son of God and could have heard such a voice, but he failed. Luke's version shows us something important.

*Luke 3:21-22 KJVS Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, [22] And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

Luke said that Jesus had to pray for the heaven to open.

*Genesis 3:1,6 KJVS Now the serpent was more subtil 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? [6] And when the woman saw 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, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Let's look at this verse more closely. It shows us some important things. The woman was not blind. When it says she "saw", it means she thought about it. She got a message in her mind. The enemy used a message to ruin man, but God used a message to save man. Hebrews 2:3-4. What we listen to is very important. Listening spiritually is not with your ears, but with your heart. The message that you get is very important.

In Genesis 3, the woman listened to satan and decided that the food was good to eat and to make her smart. The word that comes to you can be good or bad. Eve made her choice based on what she wanted and what she thought. The first thing a child learns is to think about themselves. So a child starts to disobey their parents because of self. This came from Adam. Adam did not have children until he sinned. Everyone who is born in this world is born with a dead spirit. When you are born again, your spirit comes alive. Your spirit can now do what God wants.

Everyone who is born in this world has a dead spirit and a corrupted soul. Even after we are born again, we still have to fix our soul. When we are born again, God can talk to us because we are like Him. Man is the only being that can talk to both the spirit and the physical world. Man is really a spirit being that lives on earth. When man sinned, he lost the ability to hear from God.

There were three kinds of trees in the garden. The Bible says there were other trees, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. When man was alive, he ate from other trees. He was told not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We know that man did not eat from the tree of life, because if he did, he would not be able to come back to God. Eating from other trees, man was a living soul. Eating from the tree of knowing good and evil, man became flesh. If he ate from the tree of life, he would become a spirit that gives life.

When man sinned, his mind, body and even the world got worse. The Lord came to save man, first his spirit, then his soul and finally his body. When Adam ate from the tree, his spirit died right away and he died 930 years later (a day with God is 1000 years). Jesus came to fix everything. He came to make the spirit and the body alive. He uses the spirit to teach the soul how to live. The more the spirit gets life, the more it controls the soul.

The soul is what we need to work on. The biggest problem is self. If self did not join with the enemy, Adam would not have sinned. Satan does not have power over us unless we let him. James says "Give yourself to God, say no to the devil and he will run away". This means if you don't give yourself to God, you won't be able to say no to the devil and make him run away. Some people think they can scream and shout and make the devil go away. This might work sometimes, but not always. If you give yourself to God first, He will give you the power to say no to the devil and he will run away.

Let's try to understand these verses better. They tell us some important things.

*Exodus 23:21-22 KJVS Be careful of him, and listen to his voice, don't make him angry; for he will not forgive your sins: for my name is in him. [22] But if you really listen to his voice, and do everything that I say; then I will fight against your enemies, and be against those who are against you.*

**God will take care of your enemies. He will fight for you.**

*Exodus 23:23 KJVS For my Angel will go ahead of you, and bring you to the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will get rid of them.*

**The Holy Spirit will show you your sin and help you live without sin.**

*Exodus 23:24-26 KJVS You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do what they do: but you shall destroy them, and break their idols. [25] And you shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your food, and your water; and I will take away sickness from among you. [26] There shall be no miscarriages, nor barrenness, in your land: I will make you live as long as I want.*

*Exodus 23:27 KJVS I will make them afraid of you, and will wipe out all the people that you will meet, and I will make all your enemies run away from you.*

This shows that your enemies will run away. This happens when you give yourself to God.

*Exodus 23:28-30 KJVS And I will send hornets before you, which will chase away the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before you. [29] I will not chase them away from before you in one year; so that the land will not be empty, and the animals of the field will not be too many for you. [30] Little by little I will chase them away from before you, until you grow more, and take over the land.*

The Holy Spirit will show you and help you with each part of yourself that needs to change until you understand that everything you have is by God's kindness.