

Our Champion's Spiritual Weapon  
The Savior and His Spiritual Sword, Part 1  
Matthew 4:1-11

- You can count on this: you will be tempted by Satan to challenge your loyalty to God.
- The Word of God was to Jesus the sword by which He conquered the great spiritual enemy.
- Let's consider the three temptations by Satan and how Jesus Our Champion used His Spiritual Weapon, "It is Written," to overcome temptation:

**1. Temptation to SELF-Sufficiency: You Can DO IT ON YOUR OWN! (v.1-4)**

- This first temptation challenges Jesus with the LUST OF THE FLESH.
  - A. In temptation, Satan hurls at Jesus his "darling fiery dart": "IF."
  - B. Satan tempts Jesus to satisfy His bodily needs apart from His Father.
  - C. Jesus answers from Deuteronomy 8:3, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

**2. Temptation of SELF-Importance: You Can GET AWAY with IT! (v.5-7)**

- This second temptation challenges Jesus with the PRIDE OF LIFE.
  - A. In Temptation, Satan seeks Control: He commands Jesus, "Cast yourself down from hence.
  - B. In Temptation Satan abuses Scripture: He misapplies Scripture and tempts Jesus to tempt God.

C. Jesus answers from Deuteronomy, 6:16, “It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (Matt.4:7)

- To tempt God is to plunge yourself into peril, and see if God will protect you from reckless behavior.

### **3. Temptation to SELF-Indulgence: You Can Have IT ALL NOW! (v.5-8)**

- This third temptation challenges Jesus with the LUST OF THE EYES.
  - A. Satan’s best and most glittering gifts are only temporary and earthly, yet he requires the ultimate compromise, our eternal soul, to gain them.
  - B. Jesus answers from Deuteronomy 6:13 “It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” (Matt. 4:10)

Beware of Satan’s schemes! He tempts us to foolishly rely upon ourselves, falsely rely upon God, and fully rely on Satan. Beware and stand on “It is written!”