

He speaks to us. He uses life circumstances and issues to spark words in and around us: his messages. Sometimes they are heard in our inner monologue. Sometimes people in our lives say things to us. Sometimes it is the buzz of our culture pushing our agenda.

We need to know that all ideas and words that push us away from God, and NOT OF GOD, and they are NOT OF US, we are NOT THE ENEMIES OF GOD... THEY ARE OF THE DEVIL.

Genesis 3:4-5 – He spoke and she heard him, but she didn't identify who was speaking. So she considered it, was influenced by it, and sinned.

II John 2:15-17 – His tone, overall, has not changed – he wants us to look to ourselves. He wants us to consider our bodies, our eyes, and our feelings and let them reign. Much of his words of encouragement are FOR OURSELVES, but this is really FOR HIM, and leads us from our GOD.

Matthew 4:1-11 – All of this is seen in his interaction with Jesus in the Wilderness:

- **v3-4** – Your hunger deserves to be satisfied (flesh)
- **v5-6** – You are too special for God to cast away (pride)
- **v8-9** – You deserve to have what your eyes desire (eyes)

Jesus was able to resist him for two reasons: ONE – he was not driven by such fleshly things. TWO – He understood who was speaking and what Satan wanted. He was not deceived.

Let's talk about some of his messaging to people in our lives, and maybe to us:

He Speaks to the Lost

- 1) *Your life here is all you need to be happy*
 - a. But so many aren't. And it limits joy to moments in time and uncertainty.
 - b. Philippians 4:4-13**
- 2) *The church is not the answer to your problems*
 - a. Sells limited benefit from being apart of Christ's body
 - b. Phil. 4:14-20; Acts 2:42-47**
- 3) *You aren't good enough for God anyway* (element of truth, like words to Eve – know good/evil)
 - a. True, but that's why I am so thankful for Him and need Him so much!
 - b. Acts 2:36-41**

He Speaks to the Saved

- 1) *Life was so much easier outside the church*
 - a. To some extent true. But he wants you to ignore the tradeoff
 - b. Romans 6:20-23**
- 2) *God's people are hypocrites, not family*
 - a. This people will not be there for you like family or old friends.
 - b. Romans 12:4-5, 10-13; 14:19; 15:1-7**
- 3) *Leave. You can always go back to faith later.*
 - a. Romans 11:22; I Peter 4:1-5**

When you hear things like these, know where they are coming from. Know of whom they originate. Hear Satan, so you can reject him to his face. "No." Have Jesus like courage and knowledge:

Matthew 4:4 – I live by the word of God **4:7** – I live to pass tests of faith not test my God.

4:10 – In fact, I have but one priority – Serving God.

Satan has said many things to you to drive you away. He has appealed to flesh, eyes and pride. Who is ready to say something in return?