

## Luke 4:3-4

*And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "*

I think most of us are familiar with Jesus' temptation in the wilderness after fasting for 40 days. Today's devotional verse is the first of the three temptations that we read about in the book of Luke. But when you read this first one, you may not realize that satan came out of the gate with double barrels, both shooting at once.

We are familiar with the "*command this stone to become bread*" and Jesus response of "*It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'* "

But the second barrel is what satan starts out with "*If You are the Son of God.*" What he was trying to do right off the bat was to cause Jesus to doubt or question God, because if Jesus doubted that He was the Son of God, all His faith would be gone and Jesus would had been on a downward spiral into falling into sin.

But Jesus didn't doubt, in fact if you read Jesus' response, He doesn't even go there with satan. satan told Jesus to do something (*command this stone to become bread.*) and Jesus addressed that and that alone, because Jesus knew who He was in God, there was no reason to even argue it with satan about it, because it would have been a waste of Jesus' time.

The car I used to own was black, with flakes of blue, purple and silver in it. It would be like if someone came to me and said, "*If your car is orange, then turn it into a motorcycle.*" It's obvious to me, the person who said it, and everyone else that my car is black and not orange, so why would I even argue that fact? I would reply that God has provided me with what I need, and I don't need to change His provision from a car to a motorcycle.

But satan does this to us all the time, he will subtly throw in that little bit of doubt along with what ever the temptation is. For us it could be something like "*If you are a Christian then...*" or "*How can you call yourself a Christian after...*" It's those little digs of doubt that if we keep believing, and we allow ourselves to fall deeper and deeper into the lies of the enemy by believing them. Yet we doubt, because we are human and continue to sin even after we become a Christian, but because you sin that doesn't void out the fact that you belong to Jesus Christ, because He is your Savior.

Think about the first sin, 6000 years ago in the Garden of Eden. When Adam sinned did God say that he was no longer His? No He didn't.

† **Genesis 3:17-19** *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

Sure, Adam had to face the consequences of his sin, yet he still belonged to God.

So you will mess up because you are human, but it doesn't make you any less of a child of God when you do. God's love for you does not change, because it's not based upon our goodness, but is based upon what Jesus did on the cross for us all and His goodness!

† **Romans 8:38-39** *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*