

## Matthew 4:1

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

If you are familiar with the bible, then you know today's devotional verse is the beginning of when Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days and tempted by the devil. We also know that when Jesus was tempted, Jesus countered the temptation with God's word. ***"It is written"*** But if you think about it, Jesus was not led into the wilderness and tempted to see how much scripture He memorized. No, it was more of how much of God's word did He know AND live.

I've said it over and over, and I'm sure you pastor has, and probably other pastors you may listen to or read their books and devotionals. And we all seem to be saying the same thing, which is "Get into the word, the bible, read it every day, study it." Which I will echo even again now. But more than that, don't just read the bible and study it, but "live it."

Just like anyone can read and study a cookbook, but unless you actually do what it says, it really means nothing to you, other than possibly judging the way others cook, and you think you could do better based upon what you read. But you will never know unless you apply it yourself.

What about being a doctor? My granddaughter is studying to be in the medical field as an EMT or working in a hospital. And she can read all the books she wants, sit and listen to teaching after teaching about it in college, but until she actually starts applying it, it will not benefit herself or others. That's right others. Because the medical profession is about helping others, not just so you can get a big fat paycheck, and I know her heart is to help others, not get rich.

It's the same with being in the word, reading and studying it. It will and should help you grow more mature as a Christian. But not by just reading and studying it, but by applying it to your life as well. But as my example with my granddaughter, not only will it help you, but it will help others around you. It will improve your marriage, make you a better employee, cause you to be a better brother or sister or son or daughter or friend. It will help out in the church you go to. But once again, you must apply it first, or it will do nothing for anyone, not even yourself.

It's like the Disney/Pixar movie, WALL-E. If you look at all the fat lazy people sitting in this spaceship just being served and doing nothing but eating and drinking; heck, even their chairs move them around.

That's what a lazy fat Christian that only reads the bible but never applies it to their life looks like. Is that what you really want to look like spiritually?

*"Father, help us to get excited for Your word again, to look forward to spending time with You in Your word every day. But also help us to apply it to our lives, because we don't want to be fat, lazy Christians, but we want to do what Your word tells us to do, and that is to live*

*a life for the benefit of others wellbeing and to glorify Your name. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen!"*

† **Romans 12:11 (NLT2)** *Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*

† **2 Peter 1:8-9 (NLT2)** *The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.*

† **John 5:39** *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*