

# Temptation

Luke 4:1-15

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## Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,<sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

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- Now on to Jesus.

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- When Jesus was baptized, “the Holy Spirit descended on him.” (Luke 3:22)
- After that, “full of the Holy Spirit,” he “was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.” (Luke 4:1)
- This time lasted “for forty days” during which he was “tempted by the devil.” (Luke 4:2)

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  3. What is the relationship between Christ’s experience of temptation and our own?

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- Note from these very first verses:

1. Temptation comes to Jesus when he is “full of the Holy Spirit,” and “led by the Spirit.” – when he was spiritually strong.
2. Temptation comes also after he fasted for forty days “and he was hungry.” – when he was physically weak.

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- Temptation can come at any time.
- We should never assume we cannot be tempted.
- The element of surprise is one of the great principles of spiritual warfare that the devil uses against the saints.

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*One of the strongest weapons of offensive warfare is the surprise attack. The closer we come to it, the more fortunate we shall be. The unexpected element which the defender creates through secret preparations and through the concealed disposition of his troops, can be counterbalanced on the part of the aggressor only by a surprise attack.*

*– Carl von Clausewitz, Prussian General  
(1780 – 1831)*



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- Since Jesus was hungry this would have appealed to the natural desire of his flesh.
- Jesus answers with **Deuteronomy 8:3.**

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- He was not half God and half human.
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- This was a direct appeal to the world.
- Jesus was no doubt aware that he was destined to rule all these kingdoms, but he also knew that was after the cross.
- Jesus resisted by quoting Deuteronomy 6:13.

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## Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

<sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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- Temptation 3: If you are the Son of God, [paraphrase] perform this astounding, but pointless, stunt which, by the way, may kill you.

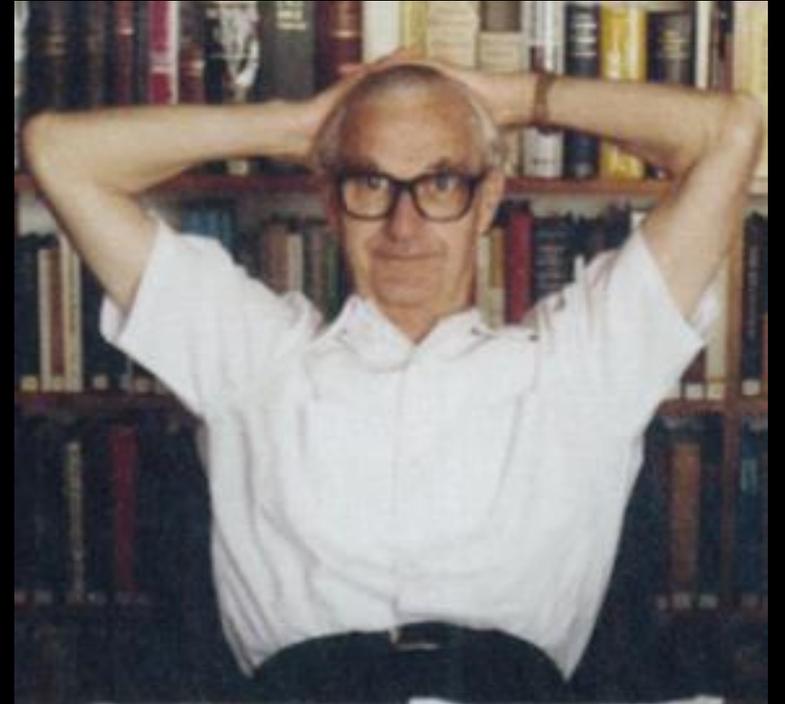
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- Temptation 3: If you are the Son of God, [paraphrase] perform this astounding, but pointless, stunt which, by the way, may kill you.
- The devil added a quote from **Psalm 91:11-12** to make the deception sound spiritual.
- Not all use of the Bible is biblical! Jesus countered it by sensibly quoting **Deuteronomy 6:16**.

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*On all three occasions Jesus countered the temptation by quoting from Deuteronomy and in fact from the restricted area between 6:13 and 8:3, chapters that refer to the wilderness experiences of Israel ... It may well be that Jesus had given a lot of thought to these passages as he reflected on the mission to which God was calling him ... He was one with the people of God.*

*– Leon Morris*



# Temptation    Luke 4:1-15

- Adam fell to temptation when he was in paradise – in a perfect environment where he had all he would ever need.
- Jesus resisted temptation in the wilderness – in a stark environment after fasting for forty days.
- Strengthened only by God's Spirit and armed only with God's Word, Jesus emerged from the wilderness victorious.

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- Christ allowed himself to be tempted as a human and countered with means now available to us in Christ.
- In so doing, he shows us that we also can learn to have victory over temptation.

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- Like Jesus, however, we have to be well-equipped with God's Word or the devil will deceive us.
- We also have to rely on the power of the Spirit, because we will not defeat the devil in our own strength.

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*Ah, dear brethren, if our Lord Jesus needed “the power of the Spirit”, how much more do you and I need it! We have no power of our own, but he was the Son of God. He was a divine Teacher, and yet, when he went to his work, it was “in the power of the Spirit.” Tarry, brother, till you have that power; it is of no use for you to go without it.*

*– Charles Spurgeon 1834 – 1892*



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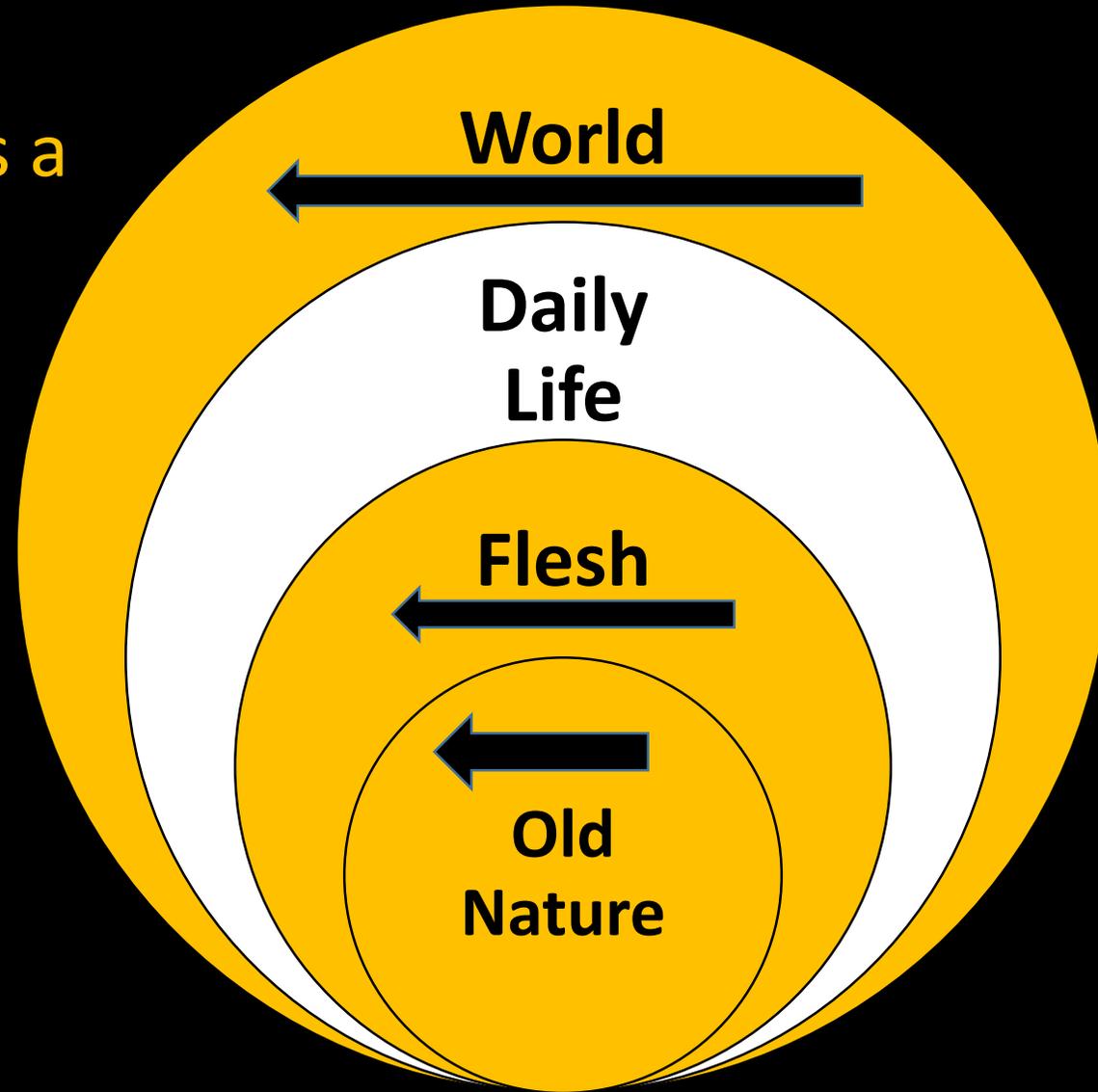
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Dead in sins as a child of wrath.

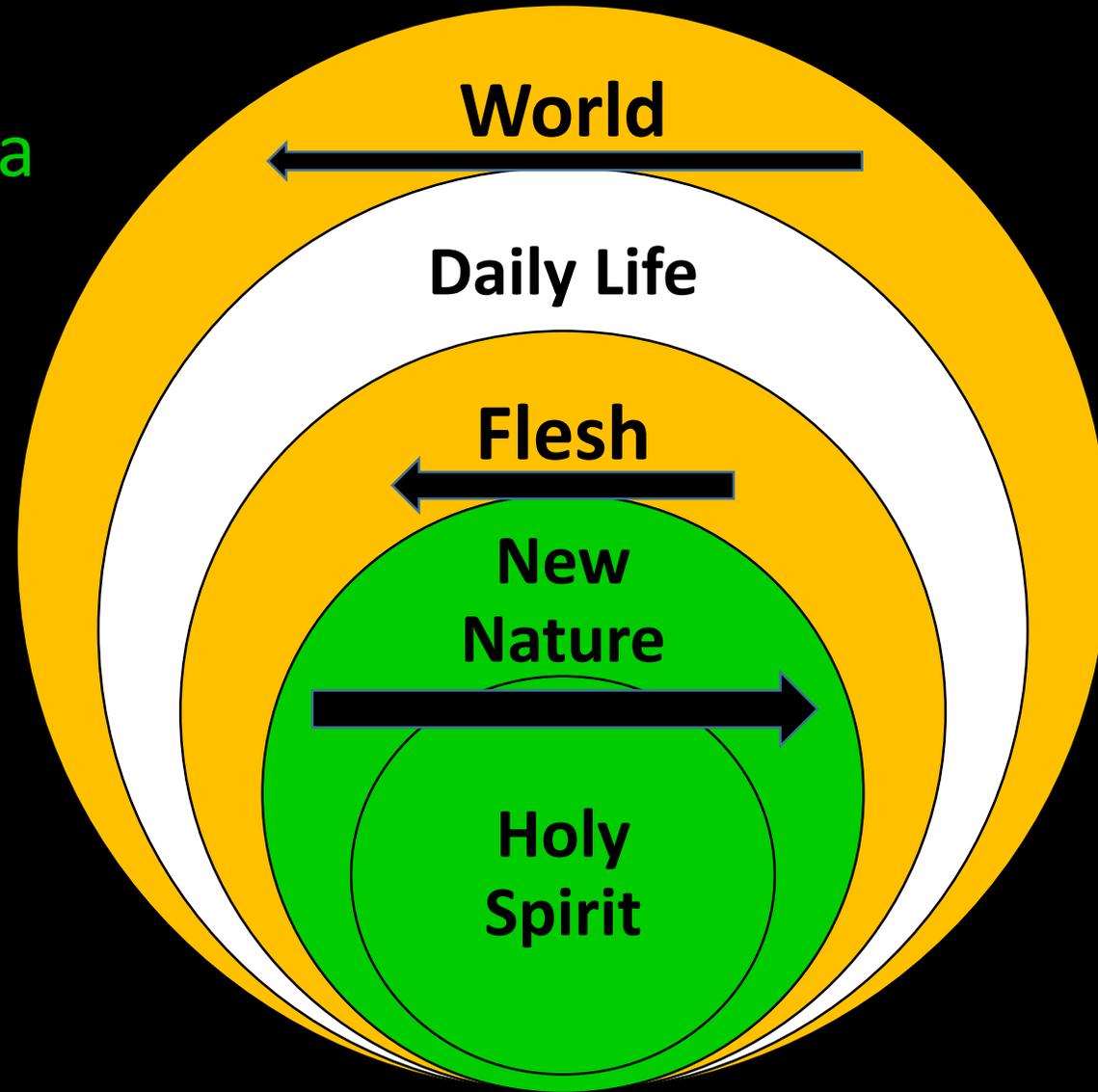
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God

Made alive as a child of God

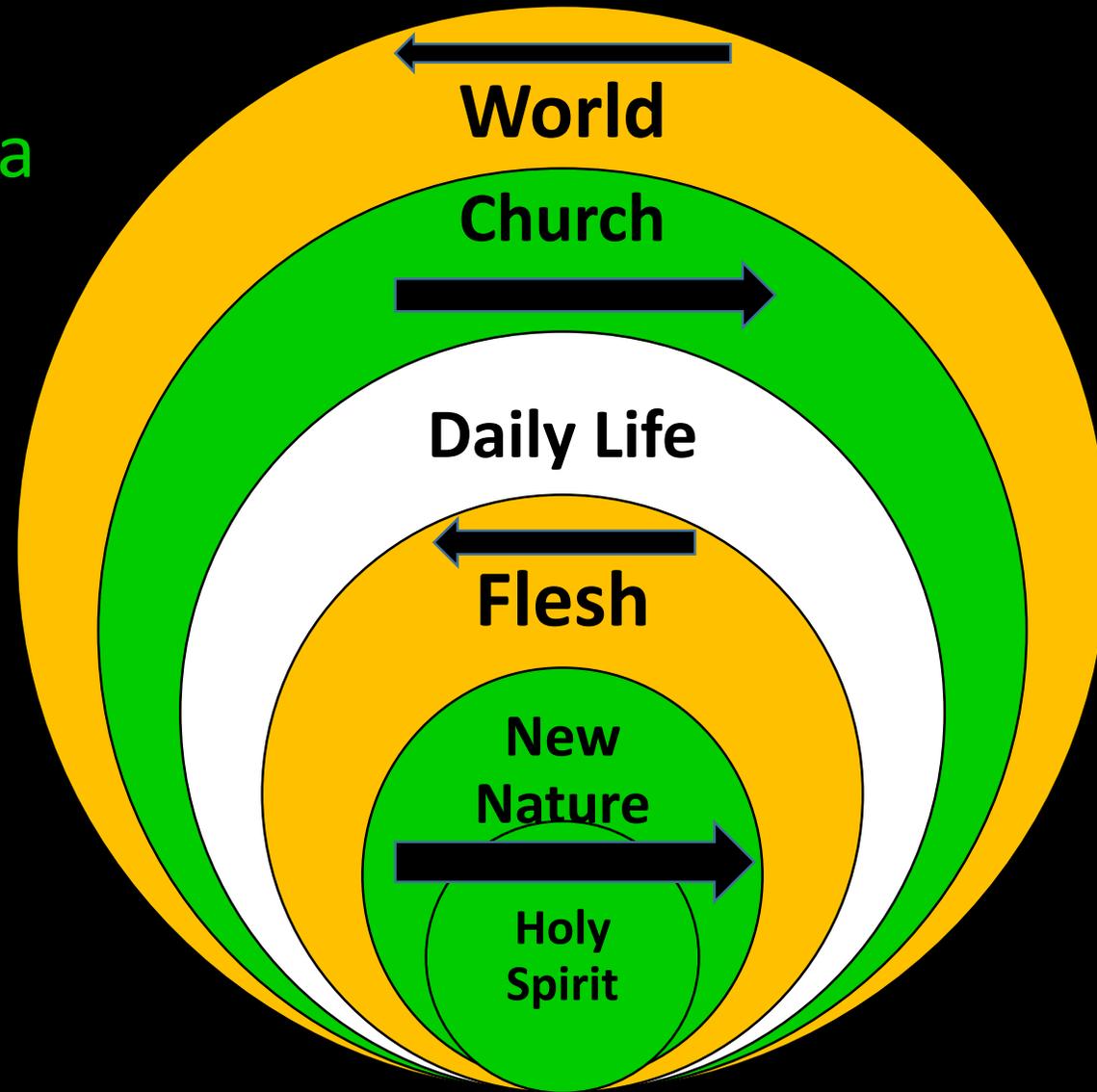
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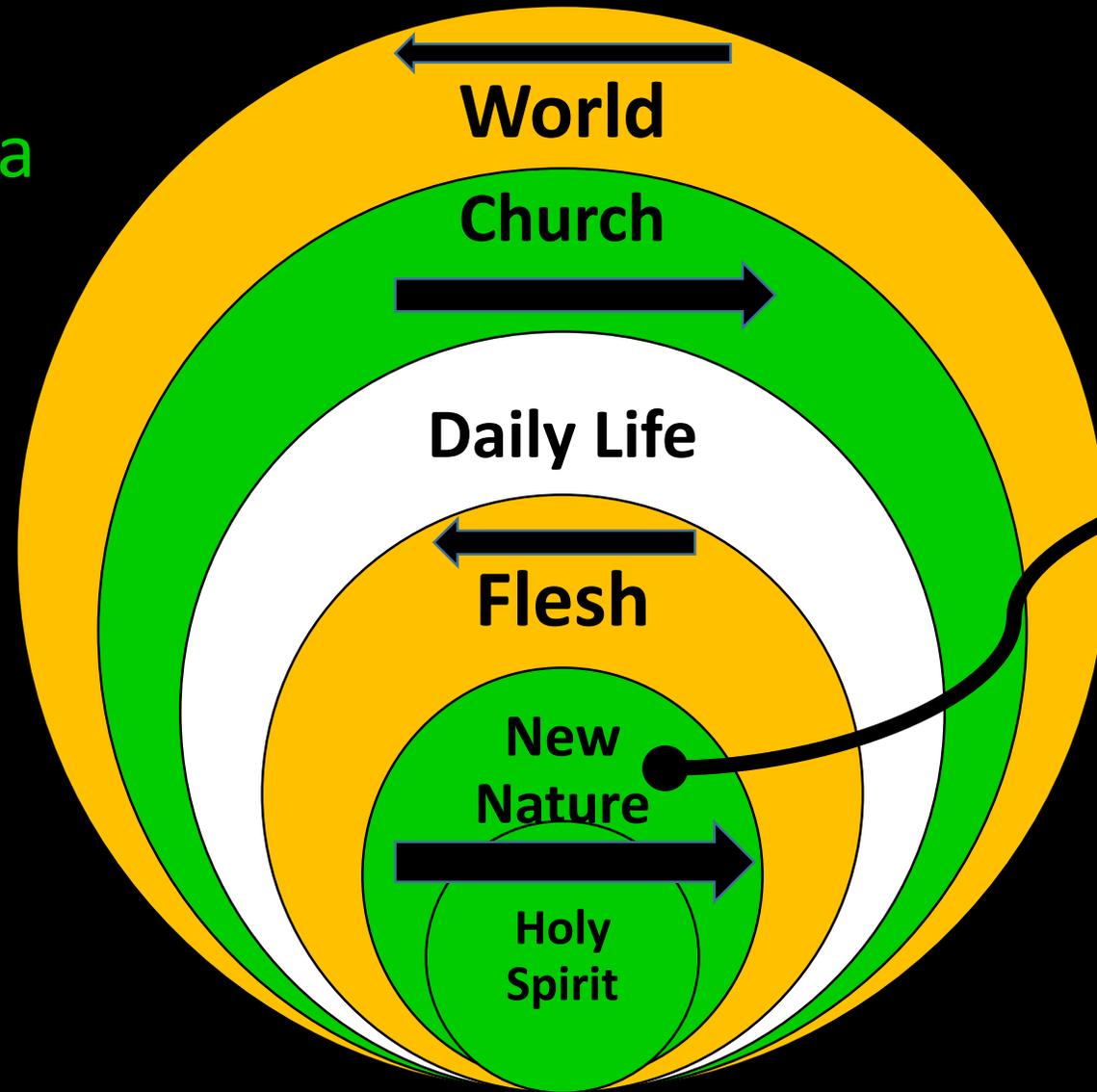
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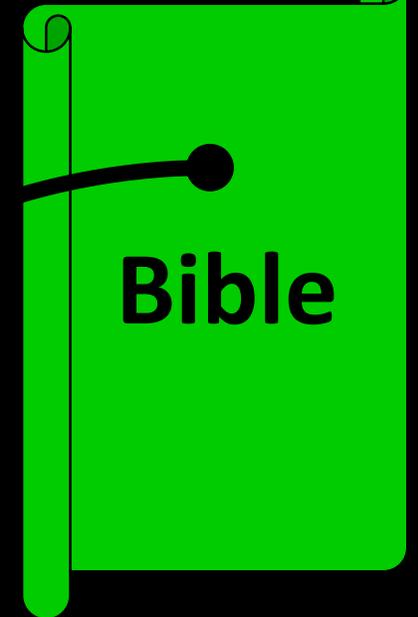
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## Closing exercise:

- As we get ready to take communion, ask the Lord to reveal three areas in which the devil continuously tempts or deceives you.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will alert you to these attacks when they come.
- Pray this repeatedly throughout this week. More insight may come later than you receive right now.