



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Key to a Life of Power**

Vince D'Acchioli

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Matthew 4:1-11

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”  
Ecclesiastes 12:13

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Jesus was tempted in the same way we are:

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’” Matthew 4:1-3 (HUNGER)

“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Matthew 4:4-6 (PRIDE)

“Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’” Matthew 4:7-9 (GREED)

“Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” Matthew 4:10-11

There is a profound relationship between obedience and power.

### **OUR CALL:**

“But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.” Colossians 3:8

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.” 1 Peter 1:13-16

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.” Ephesians 4:22

“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” Colossians 3:3-5

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

The choices we make have consequences.

### **OUR WARNING:**

“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.” Luke 11:34

“No man has power over the wind to contain it; so, no one has power over the day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so, wickedness will not release those who practice it.” Ecclesiastes 8:8

“When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.” Job 8:4

“You will suffer the penalty for your lewdness and bear the consequences of your sins of idolatry. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.” Ezekiel 23:49

“In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.” Romans 1:27

“Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?” Proverbs 6:27

“Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?” Proverbs 6:28

“Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33

## **HOW DO I OVERCOME?**

### **1. FOCUS ON JESUS**

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Colossians 3:2

### **2. GET MENTALLY TOUGH**

#### **OUR EXAMPLE:**

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.”

Daniel 1:8

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“Men of perverse heart shall be far from me, I will have nothing to do with evil.” Psalm 101:4

“The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” Romans 13:12-14

“God will never reveal more truth about Himself until you have obeyed what you already know.” - Oswald Chambers

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying...” 1 Peter 1:22

### **GOD'S PROMISES:**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

“He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer...” 1 Peter 3:11-12

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

### **LIFE IMPLICATION:**

If I am not obedient, I will not experience the power of God in my life.

**LIFE APPLICATION: Discussion Questions**

1. In which of the three temptations, Hunger, Pride or Greed, do I struggle most?
2. What are the negative things that are getting through my filter?
3. What commitment am I willing to make today to overcome temptations?