

- Sometimes God guides us into trials and temptation to improve our faith.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4 (ESV)

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)

3. Conclusion

1. The coronation of Jesus at his baptism visibly demonstrated Jesus as the Son of God. The testing of Jesus by Satan in the wilderness, when Satan was at his best and Jesus was at his worst, vindicated that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. To live a life pleasing to God in a world filled with temptation, we need to live every day relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus.
3. There are seasons in life when God steers us into trials and temptations. He never does that to destroy our faith, but to prove and improve our faith.

Life Group Questions

1. Share a time when you faced trials and temptations and how God proved your faith as genuine through them or how God improved your faith by them.
2. As we rely on the Holy Spirit, how does the Holy Spirit change our life? (See 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 14:17)
3. At church, how can you recognize someone that is walking out of step with the Holy Spirit? (See Jude 19; Galatians 5:22-23)
4. In Mark 1:12-13, what was essential for Jesus to face Satan's temptations in his humanity and not give in? What is essential for us to successfully face our temptations to sin? (See Galatians 5:16-17)
5. What are practical steps we can take to walk in step with the Holy Spirit? What life choices do we make that bring us more in step with the Holy Spirit? What life choices do we make that bring us out of step with the Holy Spirit? (See Romans 8:5-9; Mark 1:45; Matthew 4:4,7)

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Coronation and Vindication

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1. Jesus was crowned king at his baptism.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:9 (ESV)

I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' John 1:33 (ESV)

John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Matthew 3:14 (ESV)

A. Why did Jesus want to be baptized?

Jesus wanted to be baptized because submitting to John the Baptist's baptism demonstrated he was living a life that is right before God.

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. Matthew 3:15 (ESV)

Jesus wanted to be baptized so he could fully identify with the sinners he came to save.

I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Luke 12:50 (ESV)

And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11 (ESV)

B. The baptism of Jesus echoes the Genesis 2 creation story.

C. The baptism of Jesus was public, not private.

And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." John 1:32–34 (ESV)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— Isaiah 64:1 (ESV)

D. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit authenticated Jesus as the Son of God visibly.

"...and the Spirit of God fluttered over the face of the waters like a dove." Genesis 1:2 Aramaic Targums

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Isaiah 11:2 (ESV)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1 (ESV)

E. At Jesus' baptism, God the Father authenticated Jesus as the Son of God audibly.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11 (ESV)

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "**You are my Son**; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession." Psalm 2:6–8 (ESV)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, **in whom my soul delights**; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1 (ESV)

F. Application

- **To live a life pleasing to God, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus.**

...in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:4 (ESV)

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:13 (ESV)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) See also Romans 6:15-20.

2. Jesus was vindicated as king when he successfully faced Satan's temptations in the wilderness.

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. Mark 1:12–13 (ESV)

G. The temptation of Jesus echoes the fall of Adam in Genesis 3.

H. Satan's primary attack was to tempt Jesus in his weakness to rely on his divinity instead of living in complete dependence on the Holy Spirit in his humanity.

I. Application

- **Sometimes God guides us into trials and temptation to prove that our faith is genuine.**

...so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7 (ESV)