

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

### THE DEVIL NEVER QUILTS

Luke 4:13 “And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”

After forty days and nights of unsuccessfully tempting Jesus in the wilderness, the Devil stopped. This did not mean that he had given up. Verse 13 says the Devil “. . .departed from Him until an opportune time.”

The Devil’s temptations are not continuous. They are however, strategic, well timed and well camouflaged. He looks for, as Luke writes, “an opportune time.”

What would create an opportune time in your life? Perhaps he will come to you in a time of suffering, or a time of blessing, or during a time of life transition to attempt to convince you that God has forgotten you. Peter addresses these life situations with these words, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

God provides what you need to battle the Devil. The Holy Spirit inspired St. Paul to provide you with a list of God provided defensive and offensive weapons as the Devil tempts you: “. . .be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance. . .” (Ephesians 6:9-18)

Jesus taught you to pray, “And lead us not into temptation.” Luther explains what this prayer means, “We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.” (Luther’s Small Catechism)

Prayer: O Lord, into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen (Luther’s prayer)

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord I prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do Thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.  
(LSB 770)