THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS AND THE TEMPTATION OF YOU

"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned to Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil, and in those days He did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterwards hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou, therefore, wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering, said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season." (Luke 4:1-13)

"Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not
born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech: even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words; ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." (John 8:41-47)

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." (II John 1:8)

One of the common denominators in the present age in which so much Satanic power is being unleashed is that of deception. Not only is there deception in the world system as ordinarily understood but there is much deception in the church where the world system has been allowed to enter the church structure. This is one of the reasons why there is so much conflict and misunderstanding today relative to the truth of the Holy Spirit. There cannot be two truths. One stand, relative to the Holy Spirit, must be correct and the other must be falsehood. It is easy to understand the difference between truth and falsehood if one will simply go to the Word of God and see what it says and then decide whether the
doctrine that is being proclaimed to him is of God and of the Word or is not of the Word, and is therefore, not of God. Explanations as to why certain pronouncements in the Bible are not true today or explanations of the Word which detract from its truth and power are to be held suspect. The only way that modern man has to determine truth from falsehood is to go to God's Word and to determine for himself what God's word has to say. If one would do this he would soon destroy all confusion. Of course, it is scripturally true that Satan, himself, quoted Scripture to Jesus at the time of the temptation. This was true at the time of the temptation of both Jesus and Eve. One, therefore, must be careful about the taking of Scripture out of proper context in order to proclaim a particular point of view. If one is going to understand Scripture and have Scripture as the basis of his life, he must be steeped in its reading and must spend time and effort in its personal study—not simply reading about the Word or explanations of the Word. Only by knowing God's Word can you and I differentiate between the true voice of the Holy Spirit and the voices of false prophets. More will be said on this subject next month.