

# **PENTECOST STUDENTS AND ASSOCIATES (PENSA) KNUST**

## **BIBLE STUDY DEPARTMENT**

**Answers to mind boggling questions asked during the Bible Study Session held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 (Wednesday Miracle Movement)**

### **1) Please, how does the temptation of Christ correlate to James 1:13?**

James 1:13 TPT says: “When you are tempted don’t ever say, “God is tempting me,” for God is incapable of being tempted by evil and He is never the source of temptation”

As we read from Matthew 4:1, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness and not into a temptation. The one who came to tempt Him was satan. From Luke 4:14, we can see the true motive of the Holy Spirit when He led Jesus into the wilderness- to be armed with His power and authority for the assignment ahead.

### **2) As Christians, are we going to be judged by cultural basis or by the word of God?**

Romans 12:2 TPT: Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God’s will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.

We also understand from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 4:12 that the Word is the final and complete authority by which every disciple of Christ is to live by. It is our standard of judgment and the source of our morality. Culture therefore is subject to the Word as the Word is eternal but cultures change depending on the particular dispensation or era.

### **3) Please, did the temptation of Jesus occur physically or mentally?**

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NKJV says “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds”.

The temptation involved an engagement with satan (a spirit being) and since the devil lacks the ability to be incarnated like Jesus, the only way possible for the interaction to happen was to be in the spirit. Hence the temptation occurred spiritually. The mind was involved too as often it is the battlefield as described in the above mentioned text.

**4) I mostly forget that I am fasting and by the time I realize, I have eaten.  
How can I fast effectively?**

Joel 4:12 says: Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

Fasting is not a grace or a gift. One must intentionally plan in order to have an effective fast. Ultimately, discipline is a strong determinant. Decide beforehand the time and type of fast the Spirit is leading you or you want to embark on. Prepare your body at the start and end of the fast so as not incur any complications. Finally, a fast is not a fast without prayers, worship, Word study and taking time to wait on God. The end goal of the fasting as a believer is to deepen your intimacy with God so that your consciousness of His Spirit within you will be heightened.

**5) For now, I’m not grounded in the Word of God, so if the devil tempts me now, what should I do to withstand this temptation?**

Hebrews 4:16 TPT – “So now we draw near freely and boldly to where grace is enthroned, to receive mercy’s kiss and discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our time of weakness”.

As a disciple of Christ, God has placed systems of advantage to help us grow in Him. The very first to begin will be to have a stable prayer life. You can start with baby steps- 15 minutes of prayer every day. In the beginning, consistency and discipline is the most important factor.

Next, it is to stick to a Bible reading and meditation plan where you will get exposed to the word in its purest form as you allow the Word to build roots in you through meditation.

Also, you can submit to godly counsel and wisdom from a trusted mature believer like campus pastor, any LCC member, S&S member or anyone that the Lord leads you to through mentorship so that you will be accountable and responsible to him or her.

Finally, don't forsake the gathering of the saints. Attend church meetings purposefully and expectantly.

#### **6) How do I meditate or keep the Word of God in my heart because after reading the Bible, the understanding is not clear?**

Joshua 1:8 NKJV – “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success”.

Meditation is an ancient art known through the eastern religions. In fact, it is all religions practice meditation. But the difference between theirs and ours is that we meditate mindfully while they meditate mindlessly, with nothingness as the focus.

For meditation, the object of meditation which in this case is the Word must be kept in the heart. The Word must be able to invoke emotions and passions of the Spirit. This is different from memorization- memorization keeps it in your mind but true meditation keeps it in your heart. So imagine the Word when you are reading. The goal is involving all of your senses in it so that it can leave an imprint on your heart. Visualize the Word.

In addition, let the portion of the Word you are meditating on be on your lips. Keep confessing. Keep saying it. Constantly put it in a place where you will see and hear it every day.

Most importantly, your approach to the Scriptures is the key. The Bible is not a history book or a life manual per se. It is spiritual book penned by the Spirit of God. Since the carnal mind cannot access the things of the Spirit, we ought to be spiritual in unlocking the Scriptures. Expect to hear from God and have a life-transforming encounter when you take the Bible. Passive reading will not yield any result.

**7) Please is Jesus loves is, why did he send us to this world to be tempted?  
Because temptation I know is not sweet.**

First of it all, we should understand that, temptation wasn't part of the reasons why man was created. Man was created in the image and likeness of God to have dominion. Temptation on the other hand is the act of tempting or being tempted especially to evil. Luring someone to do evil is temptation therefore on this, we can establish that temptation is not from God. That is why the Holy Spirit did not tempt Jesus himself but rather sent him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Beloved, Jesus loves us so much. God brought us here to have dominion but because of our disobedience we lost the power and glory entrusted unto us. And in this, God sent His only son, Jesus to die for us. This is love. Glory be to God, He said he'll not let any temptation greater than us befall us but even should it come, He'll make an escape route for us. In addition, He has also given us a compass which is His Word(Bible) and a guardian to this compass(Holy Spirit), helping us to be grounded and overcomers of the schemes of the enemy. What can we say this is? Definitely love for we don't deserve this.

**8) Both Jesus and Satan quoted the scripture, so what makes Satan's own adulterated?**

To adulterate means, to corrupt, twist, make impure and so on. To adulterate can be an addition or subtraction of something making the original loss value. It is rightly said, both Jesus and Satan quoted scripture but the difference is, Satan didn't quote as they were written. He either added or subtracted. For instance, with the third temptation, Satan quoted from 91:11-12 which did not say when you intentional jump or throw yourself from the top of a height they'll catch you but rather wherever you go with the intention that, the enemy will be setting traps which we might not be aware but He'll come through for us sending His angels to guard. This was the same thing the Lord wanted to do for the Israelites but Moses insisted on the LORD going with them Himself not His angels. Jesus on the other hand knowing the right words quoted to counteract the half-baked truth from Satan.

