



### **Lent Reflections Week 4 - *Experiences in the Wilderness 3***

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 8-11

In the third temptation, the devil takes Jesus to a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and offers him all authority and all glory if Jesus will worship Him. This was an attack on Jesus' identity. As the second person of the Trinity He already had authority over all the earth. He had set aside his authority to be born as a human being but he was totally comfortable in his identity and was not at all phased by Satan's temptation. Once again he counters this with *"It is written . . ."* and quotes from the Torah (Law), *"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."* (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Like Jesus, we need to be totally confident in our identity. We are children of God. Jesus answered each of the temptation by quoting from the word of God. *"It is written . . ."* We too need to be confident in our identity and know what the scriptures say. In his introduction to his gospel John reminds us, *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* If we are tempted to doubt who we really are, then like Jesus we need to say, *"It is written . . . he gave us the right to become children of God!"*

So of the many lessons we could learn from the way Jesus resisted Satan perhaps one of the most powerful is for us to be sure and steadfast in our identity - who we are in Christ - and to make sure we know the scriptures that support this.

**When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path.  
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.**

## ***Prayer***

*Heavenly Father, I come before You seeking a deeper understanding of who I am in Christ. Your word tells me that when I am in Christ, I am a new creation. The old, sinful nature has passed away, and a new life has begun. Lord, help me to fully embrace this truth and live as a new creation.*

*In a world that often defines identity by external factors, I choose to find my identity in You. I am not defined by my past mistakes, my circumstances, or others' opinions. My identity is rooted in being a child of God, redeemed and transformed by the blood of Jesus Christ.*

*Lord, just as Jesus knew who He was as the Son of God and confidently lived out His purpose, I pray that I may also understand my identity in Him and live in accordance with Your plan for my life. Grant me the wisdom and discernment to recognize and reject any false identities or worldly labels that may try to define me.*

*Dear Lord, help me to follow Jesus' example of unwavering identity in You. Just as He resisted temptations and stayed true to His divine calling, may I stand firm in my identity as Your child and faithfully walk in the path You have set before me.*

*In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*