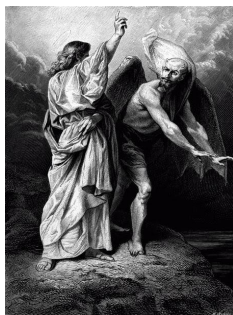


## TRINITY 18

### THE COLLECT

**LORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



1. What do we beseech God to grant his people?  
A. g \_\_\_\_\_ (I Timothy 1:2)
2. For what purpose do we ask this?  
A. That we may be able to withstand the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the w \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 2:16-17)  
of the f \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 5:16-17)  
and of the d \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6:11)
3. With what disposition should we follow God?  
A. With pure \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5:8)
4. Why do we here call the Almighty the *only* God?  
A. Because it is written, “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,  
and him \_\_\_\_\_ shall thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)

### INTRODUCTION.

There is war between us and the devil. When he tempts us to sin, it is like a battle. If we strive against the temptation and don't commit the sin, we have won the battle. If we give way, and do wrong, we have lost the battle. We ought to fight hard, and be as anxious to win, as we expect our soldiers to be. Let us consider how our Captain fought and won.

**Read: Matthew 4:1-11**

### I. PREPARATION.

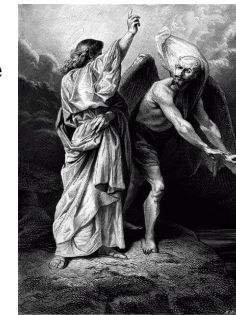
1. **There had been a battle before** in Eden. Man had lost. The second Adam (Christ) had to fight, not in a garden, but in a wilderness.
2. **Jesus was led by the Spirit.** We shall fight best when we follow the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.



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3. **He had just been baptized.** The devil will often tempt us just when we have been confirmed, or been at Holy Communion, but we need not fear, that is just when we have special grace given us.

4. **He fasted** forty days, &c. We shall be all the stronger to fight if we deny ourselves.

## II. PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE.

1. **Temptations of flesh.** Jesus was hungry: the devil will find out our weak points. Let us watch. We make stones into bread in the right way when we get our living by honest work; we make stones into bread the devil's way when we chat and get our living dishonestly, and when we gratify our desires unlawfully. It was a temptation to leave off trust in God and provide for Himself, as when we take our life into our own hands and do what we like.



2. **Temptations of the devil.** "Cast Thyself down"; the temptation of presumption, to do a wonder, to gain popular applause; Jesus used His mighty power, not to gain people's praise, but to do them good, to the glory of God. The devil tempted him in His strong point—"since you trust in God," he meant, "do this, show your trust." It is a temptation to trifle with our health, to do foolhardy things, to trifle with our spiritual strength and privileges (like Samson), to go needlessly into places and company that bring us near sin.

3. **The temptation of the world.** "All this," &c. Jesus wanted the kingdoms of the world: the temptation was to get them at once, easily, without the Cross. Mahomet got them by the devil's way—fire and sword. It is the temptation to compromise with evil—to do a little evil to reach some good end.

## III. POWER IN THE BATTLE

**Jesus used the "sword of the Spirit,"** the Bible. Jesus said it is better to trust in God and wait, even if we suffer in this life; rather than fail in our trust and so lose the higher, the spiritual life. **It is only in God's ways that we can obtain God's promises.** If we walk in the devils ways we cannot expect to have God's care. **It must be right to put God first,** and to seek first His kingdom and glory, even if it brings us the Cross.

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