

# **SELF-CONTROL**

**Matthew 4:1-11**



# **SELF-CONTROL**

- **There are several verses in the Bible that specifically urge us to practice self-control.**
  - **Galatians 5:23**
  - **II Peter 1:6**
  - **Titus 1:6 (of bishops) & 2:2 (of aged men)**



# SELF-CONTROL

- If you are looking for the word self-control in the KJV, then you will see the word temperance or temperate used instead.
- The meaning of the root word in Greek is, “*be strong in something (masterful).*”
- The KJV version of I Cor. 9:25 illustrates this well.  
“*And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.*”



# **SELF-CONTROL**

- Although, the word self-control (temperance) only appears a few times in the scriptures, other manifestations of self-control litter the pages of the Bible, such as: self-denial, sacrifice, and unselfishness.
  - Ex. like Joseph, Moses, and John the Baptist.
- But, there is no greater example than Jesus, which leads us back to our text in Matthew 4.



# **SELF-CONTROL**

- **Jesus exercised self-control in the face of temptation.**
  - **Mastered the “lust of the flesh.”**
  - **Mastered the “pride of life.”**
  - **Mastered the “lust of the eyes.”**
- **How was he able to do it?**

**WILL POWER!!!!!!**



# **SELF-CONTROL**

- If we want to practice self-control like Jesus then we are going to have to develop will power.
- And what I mean by that is.....

## **Will (OF GOD) Power!!!!!!!**

- Jesus' motivation for everything that he did was the will of God- Look at John 4:34.
- Peter echoes this for us in I Peter 4:2 when he says..



# **SELF-CONTROL**

- **Brothers and sisters, we can't do this on our own. We need God's will to influence and motivate us.**
- **We need to ask, "what is God's will in every situation we encounter in life?"**
- **And in order to fulfill that will, we need to understand it and be committed to it. Then you will have developed self-control like Jesus..**



# **SELF-CONTROL**

- **So what does this look like?**
  - **When you are tempted to look at that inappropriate image on your computer, think about the will of God!**
  - **When you are tempted to wear an outfit that does not profess godliness, think about the will of God!**
  - **When you are tempted to indulge in sinful, selfish behaviors, think about the will of God!**



# **SELF-CONTROL**

**PRACTICE WILL OF GOD POWER!!!**

**Matthew 7:21**