

**"POWERFUL HEARTS ... IN CHRIST ALONE!"**  
**MARCH 10, 2019 - THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11; ROMANS 10:8b-13; LUKE 4:1-13**  
**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

**Power. Where do you go to find it? How do you draw on it? What part of your life and spirit need it the most? Where does your heart, get its power? Power can be taken for granted, until there is a shortage. We may not think much about where we get power for our heart and spirit, until we find ourselves in the middle of a wilderness, a crisis, looking desperately for more power before we run out. Of course one way to call on as much power as possible, is to be as close, to stay as close, as you can to the power source. In Luke's Gospel today, Jesus is led by The Spirit's power into the wilderness to beat Satan. As our Lenten journey continues, as our spiritual journey continues and our daily life unfolds, trust God keeps our powerful hearts on The One who is all powerful, The One who forever has his heart on us, giving us all the power we will ever need, in the grace of Christ, in the powerful heart of Christ alone!**

1. Do you ever feel your heart running out of power? What robs power in your spiritual life? What steals power from your heart and spirit?
  - A. How do you trust the powerful heart of Christ will beat Satan and the wilderness? Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1
    - i. The wilderness in its many forms is real; it all takes so much energy from our heart, who we are, and our spirit.
    - ii. Satan is real and can have real power over us as well. Satan works hardest on those who try to make God first.
    - iii. Lent is a journey, a searching, a longing, through the wilderness, revealing the powerful heart of God's grace!
  - B. How do you trust the powerful heart of Christ will restore your heart with power, to believe anew? Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1
    - i. Believing when believing seems impossible can wear out our hearts. The uncertainties of the world, wear us down. We can question how much about God is certain.

- ii. Do not beat yourself up over this. Some of the greatest believers got tired, too. Noah, Moses, David, Peter
  - iii. The Word is near, in your heart, keeping your heart renewed through your baptism, giving you faith, power!
  - iv. Baptism, Jesus, The Spirit each give our hearts power for daily living.
    - a. Jesus is baptized, then led into the wilderness.
    - b. Where would our heart's power come from, to beat the wilderness, if not baptized?
2. Return to the Lord with all your heart! In the powerful heart of Christ your heart is powerful; The Spirit is driving your spirit! Luke 4:1-13
- A. The season of Lent is a new beginning springing forth in God's grace and hope, giving power through more than bread alone, giving our hearts power when we bow down, giving hope when we trust, not test, God's power in our midst each and every day!
  - B. The powerful heart of God's grace is revealed once again, as we fast and feast, filling up on real power, led by The Spirit!
3. Celebrate and trust your heart is powerful in Christ alone! Believe, be filled with the power to beat every wilderness, to beat Satan, to live anew! God forever keeps his heart on us, for the power given in Lent, baptism, grace, The Spirit, the cross, the tomb is more than enough for each day, for all eternity!