

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:13).

JESUS, THE TEMPTABLE MAN

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There is much talk today about Satan, the enemy of our souls. Truly he is our enemy for he is the original--anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Holy Spirit, and anti-man. He is the prince of the power of the air, and rules his dominion through demonic powers of darkness. Satan is the god of this world, and has stolen God's children away through the fall, and claimed mankind as his enthroned dwelling place. The scriptures also declares in I John that, "the whole world lies in the lap of the wicked one." Yet, is the Satan most people think of, the real enemy? Or, do we think of Satan in the way he has deceived us into thinking of him (Isaiah 14:15-17)?

As Christians, how do we war against such powerful demonic influences, that as Peter says are, "seeking whom he may devour?" And even Paul after he was a Christian, says that his Romans seven problem, ("the things I want to do, I do not,") was not him, but sin\Satan dwelling in him. How then are we Christians suppose to live and be free in the Satan infested world we live in? Jesus, Himself declares that "the prince of this world cometh and hath **nothing** in me." John says in his first epistle that, "as Jesus is in this world so are we," so then can't we know the same confidence and victorious living that Jesus had? Or is God's promises made void by the onslaught of the enemy? Nay,

I say that Satan helps to prove the precious promises as living facts in us, and not just hopeful futuristic wishes.

How can Satan prove God's precious promises in us? Let us look at how he did it in Jesus. Jesus was declared the Son of God at the Jordan River by His father God, and anointed by the Holy Spirit, which was symbolized in the dove. The Holy Spirit had prophesied by the prophets centuries earlier of the coming king and divine-man, who was to be called the Messiah, and Son of God. But Jesus was both, Son of God, and Son of **man**.

John the Baptist was baptizing all who would come for the baptism of repentance. He was preparing the people for the coming Messiah, who would permanently take away their sins. Jesus came down to be baptized; John had immediate Spirit recognition as the true and legal priest in Israel, baptized Jesus. The Heavens opened, and "the Holy Ghost descended in a **bodily shape like a dove** upon him, and a voice came from Heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased (Luke 3:22). Jesus humbly said, "I must fulfill all righteousness".

The Prophet, Isaiah centuries earlier prophesied of the Messiah's baptism. "There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall **rest** upon Him the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of

the fear of the Lord.” His Holy Spirit baptism, had anointed Him with the mind of the Spirit, and the Wisdom of God which confirmed Him to be the Son of God.

Now being filled with the Holy Ghost, the question remains, was Jesus going to stand true in His anointing as the Son of God, or was He going to relinquish His glory as the first man did in the Garden of Eden? That question could only be answered through testing. The first Adam, who was called, “the son of God” (Luke 3:38), lost his world’s dominion and glorious divine image. Now was Jesus, the second Adam, going to do the same thing? Hebrews 5:8 starts to answer the question: “Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.” When Jesus was **driven** into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tested or tempted by Satan (Mark 1:12), He had to learn as a the “son of man” how to function in the devil’s world in temptable human form. In order to stand in His anointing, He had to wholly trust the indwelling Spirit of Wisdom in Him, and refuse His own human flesh understanding or reasoning.

Jesus was the Son of God, but He was also man. He was confronted by Satan in the wilderness in order to answer the question; Would the Holy Spirit remain His source of power and wisdom and fill His bodily temple with divine glory, or would Satan get a dwelling place in His humanity? Only the powerful onslaughts of the prince of darkness could prove Jesus to be the

divine Son of man. Satan tempted him on all three levels of His humanity, Satan's purpose was to try to find a dwelling place in Jesus' spirit, or in His soul, or in His body. If Satan could have occupied any of these three places, Jesus would have been conquered and mankind would have been forever hopelessly trapped in satanic darkness.

In Andrew Murray's book "Spirit of Christ," he says that, "man fell from Spirit dominating his whole being into the soul and then again how the soul sank down into flesh, so that at last God said, 'He is become flesh' (Genesis 6:3). He descended from Spirit to soul and from soul to flesh." At the beginning of Adam's Fall, he fell from Spirit reality to soul reality, but then in Noah day, man fell further from soul reality into even more corruption, that is into fleshly bestial reality. Thus, except for the eight, the cause for the ensuing destruction of mankind in the flood (Gen. 6). So then, the Intercessor/ Rescuer and Last Adam, Christ had to be confronted on all three levels and found victorious, in order to gain back what the first Adam lost.

CONSCIOUSNESS IS FORMED THRU CONFRONTING OPPOSITES

How can the human Jesus fully be settled operating in His Divine Nature? You say, Jesus, God in the flesh needing to be settled? Here we go again. He was 100% God **and** 100% man. "Though, He were a son, yet **"learned"** He obedience by the things He suffered" (Heb. 5:8). How can a human learn or have Spirit

knowing without opposites? Humans cannot have a consciousness of a thing, without opposites. Jesus had to be tempted in an opposite direction of who He was, in order to learn how a weak human vessel functions. It could not be by His own power or might, but by faith in the indwelling Spirit within. That is the obedience of faith that He learned in the Wilderness. Therefore He could say with confidence, "I can of mine own self do nothing as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5:30).

THE THREE TEMPTATIONS OF CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS (Matt.4:1-4; I John 2:16)

- **On His Body** (Stone into bread) "LUST OF THE EYE" (Lust for outer substance to satisfy inner need)
- **On His Soul** (Angels charge over you) "LUST OF THE FLESH" (Lust for performance, Independent-self)
- **On His Spirit** (All kingdoms are yours) "PRIDE OF LIFE" (Lust for power and dominion)

THE FIRST TEMPTATION (The Lust of the Eye)

Satan begins his attacks, "Command this stone that it be made bread," Sounds only reasonable, seems like a good ideal, after all Jesus had been forty days without food. I don't think that Satan came to him in a visible way. Jesus was tempted in an inner way just like we are. It started in His imagination, then it filtered

down into thoughts and ended up in His feelings. Yes His human body did feel hungry, but would Jesus rise up by the spirit of error and perform the miraculous to satisfy His outer belly? Would “the Prince of Glory” perform out of His human flesh resources and try to get food to satisfy His fleshly belly? Jesus waited—He did nothing! He did not try to deny, fight, or try to conqueror this temptation himself, He accepted it, but He waited for how to answer back—He dare not respond in any way from His own mental capacities. Romans 8:7 says that “the carnal mind is enmity against God”. So Jesus could have never defeated Satan through His own reasoning power, nor His own fleshly will power. Then How?

He waited on His consort, the eternal Spirit of Wisdom and Power dwelling within Him to answer Satan’s temptation. Satan is too subtle and too powerful for mere human flesh, even Jesus’ flesh. If Jesus had trusted His own fleshly wisdom and power to fight against Satan’s attacks it would have all been over (II Cor.10:3-5; Phil 3:3).

The “Son of man” waited on the Wisdom of the Spirit, and like a flash of lightening the rebuttal fired out from within Him, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Jesus’ answer came out of the “divine nature” within him, the heavenly man, that is, the new union of the heavenly and the earthly. This new heavenly man does not live by bread alone, no,

He eats in a new spiritual way. His new life is not sustained by outer food, but by the Logos, the eternal Word of God.

SATAN COMES AGAIN

(Lust of the Flesh)

“If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.” The subtle serpent had come again, this time with the written Word for he knows it so well. He used Psalms 91:11-12 to tempt Jesus to try in his own flesh efforts to prove that He had been anointing in the Jordan. Or, this temptation was lust for approval through fleshly performance.

By this time Jesus didn't feel His anointing. His soul was feeling weak and dry, where was His great power? “Why aren't I (**Satan speaks in first person**) having a ministry? Where are the miracles? Aren't angels supposed to minister unto me--it says so in the scriptures? Maybe if I cast myself down from this pinnacle of the temple the angles will show up?” “Why am I so tormented? How could I be the Savior of the world, and not be able to get myself out of this? Here I am at the temple, I see all the perversion here--it is actually a mockery, but I can't do anything about it--they don't even know that I am the Son of God--how is this ever going to happen?” I, I, I, Satan counterfeits or poses himself to be our self-identity, so temptation is always in

this form. He tempts us to launch out and operate independently from who we really are.

Next Satan was after His soul, would Jesus perform by self-effort by trying to prove His authority and divinity? Not only was Jesus' weak in body, but now He was weak in soul feelings and thoughts as well. The confusion was strong, and the helplessness prevailed. Again Jesus waited, He did nothing! The Spirit flashed in His mind, "I am the son of God, I don't have to prove who I already am." Release came, He too had to operate by faith the same way that we Christians do. Against confusions, and weak feelings He simply spoke the truth, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Satan ran. Why? Because, the Spirit of truth always makes him run. If we will only speak the Spirit truth, the lie will flee like a cowardly snake. But if we try to untangle the lie, we will be tangled up in its maze of impossible solutions.

THE THIRD TRY

(Pride of Life)

Lastly, "The devil took Him up on a high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and said unto him, all these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Now comes the "**pride of life**" and the lust for power. Jesus thought to himself, "This could be the way, look at all the kingdoms of the world, I could have them. I could master

them, I would be the ultimate ruler of all the world. I could have them right now, I wouldn't have to wait, and I wouldn't have to suffer. All I have to do is take it all for myself." Sweat poured now Jesus' face. "I want this," he thought. "Oh, no I shouldn't want this." "But will I take it?" Again Jesus waited, "Father I only really want your will." The light came. "Wait, it isn't me that wants this, I'm experiencing Satan's thoughts and His lust for power." (Satan makes us think that we want what he wants. Remember temptation is tasting, but not drinking.)

Jesus sees, "Now I see, it is Satan tempting me making me think that I am an independent-self" "Get behind me Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." The Devil departed from him for a season, and the angels came and ministered unto him (Matt.4:11). After he regained his bodily strength, the Holy Spirit anointed His humanity with great power and He was confirmed "the Son of man" (Luke 4:14). Jesus learned that His human flesh was only a weak vessel/container of Deity, and not Deity in itself. Then He could declare with authority, "**Of my own self, I can do nothing, but what I see the Father do, I do**" (John 5:19&30).

Jesus passed the test, He conquered through human weakness, transmitted into the power of the God through the Holy Spirit making Him the victorious Last Adam. He conquered through the inner operation of the Cross. Jesus learned how to operate the

inner Cross long before he went to his outer Cross. Jesus teaches in John 10 that the Father loves the Son, and why does the Father love the Son, because the Son knows how to lay his life down and take it up again. The Son has the authority to lay his life down, and the authority to take it up again.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:25 that "unless you loose your life, you won't find your true life." It is loosing our soulish-self life that we find our true life, and our true identity. "Christ who is our life,"(Col. 3:4) is our true life and our identity, therefore we don't have our own life .

The Lord has crucified my old self, yet my fleshly reason rationalizes and greatly protests against it. Although, my separate "I" only partially agrees with the crucifixion of my old self, but also holds tight as well.

"I want to keep my own life, thank you. I'll even get religious and try to improve my old self, and if that doesn't work I'll try to get understanding about myself through psychology so I can keep myself under control....but for heaven sakes I'll hang on for dear life: I will keep myself...save myself...and preserve myself, but never never die to myself...even if I am a bad self, it is better than no-self at all."

But as the scriptures says, you won't find true life any other way except by the way of the inner Cross (Matt.16:24).

Jessie Penn-Lewis wrote: "The whole of Adam's life is absolutely fallen. It cannot be improved. It is fallen and poisoned by the serpent in root and branch. The whole scheme of redemption lies in the fact that God must begin again, so to speak, and make a new creation. Through the Cross He plans to bring to an end the old Adam life of the fallen race, and build again a new creation in the midst of its ruins. There is not even a 'divine spark' in the fallen man which he can fan into life as the basis for the new. We must therefore be brought by the Holy Spirit to the place where we realize that we have nothing in us that can be improved; and be willing to come to the Cross and to say when Christ went to Calvary, he took me too."

It is only the desperate who wants the Cross. What Jesus taught is radical, who will believe his report? "If any man come after me let him deny himself, and take up his Cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it, For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and **lose his own soul**" (Matthew 16:24-26)? "Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and **his own life also**, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). Only the very desperate, the weary, the failing, the hungry, the thirsty, the poor in spirit, the mournful, the meek, and the pure in heart will

receive it—for only these will see God, and be called the children of God, and inherit the kingdom of God.

How did Jesus gain the victory over Satan in the wilderness, during his lifetime, and then the ultimate victory at Calvary? Jesus said in John 5: 30 that it wasn't done by his own flesh power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit in him, "I can of my own self do nothing." Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit, He as baptized by the Holy Spirit, He operated by the Holy Spirit, He lived by the Holy Spirit, He died by the Holy Spirit, He was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit, and He was glorified by the Holy Spirit. Our glorious champion and hero, Jesus Christ was victorious over the devil, not through personal human power but through the power and might of the Holy Spirit.

What the First Adam lost to Satan through the fall, the Last Adam victoriously regained through His life-time, through His death, through His resurrection, and through His ascension into glory. Jesus gained a great victory for us when He was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan—yet we don't think of it being a great victory **for us**. Those who belong to Christ were in him even before the foundation of the earth. So whatever happened to Jesus in His lifetime happened to us as well.

All those who have "received Him", washed in the Blood of the Lamb, and filled with the Holy Spirit can gain that same victory

over Satan. We were **in Jesus** in eternity. We were **in Jesus** when He was birthed into time through the virgin Mary. We were **in Jesus** when He was baptized by the Holy Spirit at the Jordan. We were **in Jesus** when He gained the victory over Satan in the wilderness. We were **in Jesus** when He died on the Cross. We were **in Jesus** when He was raised from the dead. And we were **in Jesus** when He was glorified on high putting all principality and powers under His feet.

That is why it says in Hebrews 2:11 that "For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of **one**; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren." And again in verse 18, "For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to keep them that are tempted." "Christ is made unto us, wisdom, righteousness, **sanctification**, and redemption"(I Cor. 1:30). It is He who "sanctifies us through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). So when you are experiencing the purifying fires of sanctification in your life, know this, Jesus has already gained the victory over the flesh, the world and the devil....Rest in Him and ask the Holy Spirit to pull you through the cleansing fires the same way He pulled Jesus through. For the Bible says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life** which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).