

**The Inscrutable Question: Sophisticated Spiritual Life: Spiritual Maturity: Evidence Testing:
Lucifer's Temptations of Jesus Christ: (1) Kenosis, Matt. 4:1-4**

17- The *tour de force* in his arsenal of problem-solving devices is occupation with Christ. This ultimate ordinance may be defined as follows:

- 1) Occupation with Christ is a developed capacity to have personal love for someone who is invisible:

1 Peter 1:8 - And even though you have not seen Him, you love Him [**occupation with Christ**]; and though you do not see Him now but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with inexpressible happiness [**problem-solving device #9 in Spiritual Autonomy**] and full of glory [**maximum doctrine in the soul in Spiritual Maturity**].

- 2) The glory spoken of by Peter is invisible to mankind but quite visible to the angels and to the three Members of the Trinity. This is the same Shekinah Glory associated with the Tabernacle and Temple. The Shekinah Glory of Christ is resident in the soul of the mature believer.
- 3) What makes the believer's soul invincible is the thinking of Christ which has been developed over time to a high level of efficiency. The thinking of Christ becomes our glory:

Philippians 2:5 - Have this attitude [φρονέω / **phroneo** /: **thinking**] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

- 4) The thinking of Christ includes the entire Word of God but with emphasis on the New Testament epistles and their mystery doctrines. There is a direct mandate to the believer to acquire this knowledge and to become occupied with the Person of Christ:

1 Peter 3:15 - Sanctify the Lord Christ in your stream of consciousness.

- 5) The word "sanctify" is the aorist active imperative of the verb:

ἀγιάζω / **hagiazō** / - to set apart as something important above all else.

- 6) This occupation with Christ empowers the believer to face, endure, and pass evidence testing before the court in Satan's appeal trial.
- 7) Evidence testing is permitted by God under the rules of engagement for the appeal trial. In it, God allows Lucifer to cross examine the believer who has advanced to stage three of the Sophisticated Spiritual Life.
- 8) Under such testing, Lucifer seeks to discredit the believer whom God personally presents into evidence before the court.
- 9) Since man's thoughts, decisions, and actions express the content of his soul and either confirm or deny divine viewpoint, then every thought, decision, and action of every believer in history becomes a part of the court records in the appeal trial.
- 10) These are used in the arguments for both the prosecution and the defense and serve as evidence, exhibits, and precedents in the various stages of the appeal trial.
- 11) Believers who advance to spiritual maturity become witnesses for the Prosecution against Satan. Evidence testing is Lucifer's cross-examination of such witnesses.

- 12) However, when conducting the cross-examination, Lucifer must follow strict courtroom procedures which under the rules of engagement limit how far he can go in his efforts to discredit a witness.
- 13) There are two categories of evidence testing: (1) the mature believer's relationship to the plan of God and (2) the mature believer's relationship to life.
- 14) The example of evidence testing related to the plan of God is found in Matthew 4:1-11 where Lucifer was permitted to cross-examine the Lord Jesus Christ. On every occasion that He was tempted, the Lord passed the test by reliance upon Scripture. The first test is found in:

Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

v. 2 - And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

v. 3 - And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

v. 4 - But Jesus answered and said, "It is written, [Deuteronomy 8:3] "Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

- a. The title "Son of God" makes reference to the Lord's true humanity in hypostatic union. In the Incarnation, He was not allowed to resolve problems typical of the human condition, such as hunger, by reliance upon His divine attributes.
- b. Lucifer is tempting the Lord to abandon kenosis and utilize His divine attribute of omnipotence to create bread out of stones to satisfy His hunger.
- c. The Lord's response is to opt for problem-solving device number 7. He is motivated by reciprocal love for God to place His complete reliance on God's logistical grace and His immutable Word.
- d. This subject is expanded upon in J. Dwight Pentecost's book, *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ: A Study of the Life of Christ* (Academie Books, 1981, 101-102), where he quotes A. M. Fairbairn's *Studies in the Life of Christ*, page 93-94:

Jesus had to live His personal life (1) within the limits necessary to man, and (2) in perfect dependence on God. Man cannot create; he lives by obeying nature. Now, had Christ by a direct miracle fed Himself, He had lifted Himself out of the circle and system of humanity, had annulled the very terms of the nature which made Him one with man. The moment he had stooped to save self He had become disqualified to save men. The ideal human life must be perfect in its dependence on God, absolute in its obedience. And so His choice was not to be His own Providence, but to leave Himself to the Divine.

- e. Dr. Pentecost summarizes the first temptation as follows:

Christ responded to this temptation by quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man does not live by bread alone." Christ showed Himself to be in obedience to the will of God, and for Him that will was revealed in the Word of God. Submission to the Word of God is essential to obedience to the will of God. He recognized that the highest good is not to satisfy or gratify but to obey. In this temptation He showed absolute obedience to the will of God and absolute dependence on God to support Him in His obedience.

