

Overcoming The Temptation Through Jesus Christ

Hebrews 2:14-18,

"... Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

Times may be hard. **God has not promised a flower bed of ease, but He's promised grace sufficient for every trial that can hit you.** Yes indeed, **grace is sufficient** (*II Cor. 12:9-10*). Not he's on a flower bed of ease, **but He's promised grace to overcome in every temptation.** When a cross gets heavy, **Christ promised to be with you** (*Luke 9:23-24*).

Some glorious day, when it's all over, we'll meet Him in peace. God, grant that every one of you will receive the same thing. [1]

Now, we want to consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus, how He has overcome every temptation (*Heb. 3:1-2*).

Jesus was completely, totally man. He could cry like a man, He could eat like a man; He could become like a man. He was completely, totally man in His physical being. And **in His Spirit, He was completely, totally God**, so He made His flesh submissive to the Spirit that was in Him. You see, **He was tempted in all manners like we are** (*Heb. 4:14-16*). He was a man. He had desires and temptations just like we do. The Bible said He did. He was a man, not an Angel above temptation. Hebrews 2:9-10 said He was made lower than the Angels. **He was man, completely man**, that God took a complete man to bring total deliverance; and He filled Him with His Spirit; **the Holy Ghost was in Him without measure. And He was tempted like we were. And He was completely God.** He proved it when He raised the dead, when He stopped nature, the roaring seas and the mighty winds (*Matt. 8:23-27*). When He spoke to the trees, and so forth, they obeyed Him (*Mark 11:12-14,20-21*). **He was God inside.** And He could've been man, for He was Man, but He totally and completely delivered Himself as a Man into the hands of God **for the service of God. And He is our example.** [2]

He was a dual person. One, He was a man; the Spirit in Him was God. God was in Christ (*II Cor. 5:17-19*). **He was a God-man.** [3]

We are men and women. We're also Christians. **If He's our example, let us completely deliver ourselves into the hands of the Holy Ghost**, that we might be subjects of the Kingdom of God.

He was totally man; He was totally God, but He surrendered His natural parts and His physical parts, and His Own thinking, and His Own

doing, and His Own cares, and "I do only that which pleases the Father." There you are. Totally delivered from human beings (*John 5:19-22,30*). [2]

And look, how God, being back in Spirit (*John 4:24*), was manifested in flesh and took on the human form of a man to become kinfolks to the human race, to know what suffering means, to know what sickness means, to know what temptation means. God become man to become kinfolks with man, to redeem man back to Himself (*Rom. 8:3-4; II Cor. 5:21*). Oh, how, if you can only see that, sinner today, **it ought to melt your heart.**

The next thing God did was manifest it in the human flesh: Christ (*I Tim. 3:16*). God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (*II Cor. 5:19*). He was born as a man here, made kinfolks, **in order to pay the price of redemption.** Then He was killed there in order **that His Spirit might be set free to come back in the form of the Holy Spirit.** All that God was He emptied into Christ. All the great eternal of God was emptied into Christ; and all that Christ was, He emptied into the Church (*Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:14-21*). And men and women are afraid **to claim their God-given privileges,** and stand upon the truth of it. [4]

God came Himself, and was made human, and lived a human life under human desires, and was crucified at Calvary. And there, when Satan thought He wouldn't do it, He wouldn't go through it... He went to Gethsemane (*Matt. 27:36-46; Luke 22:39-46*), **and every temptation that any man ever stood;** He went through it just like all men; **but He paid the price.** And that's what blacked the earth out like an anesthetic for an operation (*Matt. 27:45-53*). When a doctor gives a man an anesthetic, he first knocks him out before he can do it. And when God gave the operation for the church, the world got an anesthetic. Nature had a convulsion.

No wonder, God in human flesh was dying. It was the hour that the world had looked for, yet many of them did not know it. **Like it is today, many look for these things and yet they don't recognize them.** They don't realize the way out. They're still trying to seek pleasures and things of the world, trying to find their way out. [5]

The Son of God, the Spirit of God, is in the man. So God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. **God is a Spirit (*John 4:24*).** He had no hands **till He become Jesus.** He had no feet, arms, legs, and so forth, **till He become Jesus.** No man has seen the Father at any time, but the only Begotten has declared Him (*John 1:18*). **He, God, dwelt in the body of Christ.** It ought to be striking. It ought to make men wonder. He could've come down from heaven, right down the corridors of heaven, with a full Angel salute, if He wanted to. He could've been born a full matured man. He could come down with all the pomp and glory of heaven, but He didn't choose that. He came to a stable, born over a manure pile. And **little Jehovah crying in a manger, little**

Jehovah playing as a boy, little Jehovah toiling as a man, He crossed His cast with us. God become human (Phil. 2:6-11).

When Jesus Christ was born, **God was human on earth, manifesting God, what He was (Col. 1:15).** He toiled and labored, and **felt for the teenager. He went through every temptation that we go through.** God did it, that He might do His own judgment justice. His judgment is got to be justice. If there's no justice, what good does it do to have judgment? **And if there's no judgment without penalty, then it's not judgment yet (Rom. 6:23; Heb. 2:9; Isaiah 53:4-5).** So he took the penalty of His own judgment, and died as a sinner, to condemn the sin of the world, that we, through His justice, might have reconciliation back to the throne of God in fellowship, like we did in the garden of Eden. If that's not the Gospel, I don't know it. That's exactly right. **The precious Son of God. Sure God was in His Son.** [6]

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered..." (Hebrews 5:7-9). **God could not suffer in Spirit.** He had to become flesh to feel the **pain of sickness, to feel the temptation of lust, to feel the temptation of want, to feel the temptation of hunger, to feel the power of death.** That He might take it upon Himself to **stand in the Presence of the Great Spirit--Jehovah (the Spirit, not the man, the Spirit),** to make intercessions to this life. And Jesus took that in order to make intercessions for us, **for He knows how it feels. When you get sick, He knows how you feel. When you're tempted, He knows how you feel.**

Now, did you ever notice when we vote for a president, every farmer will vote for a president that's been a farmer; for he knows the hard part of a farmer's life. **He wants some man who understands.**

And before God could ever understand (Him being That Great Holiness)... How He could ever understand, after He condemned man. By His holiness, He condemned man. And the only way He will ever know how to justify man is to become man.

And God overshadowed the virgin and she brought forth a body (Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14); not Jewish blood, not Gentile blood, but His Own Blood (*Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:5-6*): **God's created Blood,** no sex at all in it at all, no sexual desire. And this Blood Cell, created in the womb of this woman, brought forth the Son. [7]

How was it God's Blood? **God has no Blood.** How could it be? **Because it was God's creative Blood that He created in order to redeem us (Col. 1:12-14), and came and lived in the same body that He created.** God had to **suffer temptation;** He couldn't suffer temptation. He had to suffer sexual temptation. He had to suffer all kinds of temptation, to be tempted by the devil, in riches and powers and dominions, and so forth. He had to suffer all of

that. In order to do it, He couldn't be as God in Spirit; **He had to be God in flesh** (*John 1:1-5,14-16*). [8] He was permitted to be tempted **but He did not heed to temptation** (*Heb. 4:15-16*). **We're tempted to sin, but never to heed** (*Matt. 26:41*). Because the Life that is within us is the anchor of our Eternal destination, and we hold that sacred to our heart. [9]

Our life is not our own, but it's the Life of the Holy Spirit in us that makes us Christians." I believe that, that every fiber of a Christian's body is **controlled by the Holy Spirit**. I believe that your eyes are. You can't help when you look to see an evil, but if you lust after it, you've already committed adultery. **You turn your head. The Holy Spirit makes you do that.** Is that right? **You might be tempted. Temptation is not sin. Heeding your temptation is sin.** See? You can be tempted. Christ was tempted like we are, but never sinned. So the Holy Spirit is God that helps us bear out the truth of God, and then we're written epistles read of all man (*II Cor. 3:1-3*). [10]

"Well, Brother Branham, I'm so tempted." He was, too. **But He saved you from temptation.** [11] *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil"* (*Matt. 6:13*), the evil of sickness, the evil of depressed. If it's lust, if it's passions, [12] see, **He did it! It's all yours.** Everything is yours, through Jesus Christ (*I Cor. 3:23*). He gives you everything, freely. There's no pay to it, nor nothing. It's just yours right now. Aren't you glad of it? Aren't you happy for Him? Thanks be to God.

That's what the promise is for. That's what the promise is given for, that you might be an **heir of all things**, through Jesus Christ who saved you (*II Cor. 6:10*). **He saved you from sin, He saved you from sickness,** He saved you from death, He saved you from hell, He saved you from the grave (*I Cor. 15:51-57*).

You say, "But we all go into the grave." **But the grave can't hold us.** He went to it also, but it couldn't hold Him. Certainly, it can't hold Him.

In the Church of the living God lays the power **to heal all sickness. In the Church of the living God lays power to overcome all temptation** (*Eph. 3:20-21*). In the possession of the Church of the living God lays the power to chain sin and throw it away, **and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost**, in the Church of Jesus Christ. [11]

Reference:

[1] "Acts Of The Holy Spirit" (54-1219E), par. 155-156 / [2] "Total Deliverance" (59-0712), par. 87-89 / [3] "Let Us See God" (59-1129), par. 138-139 / [4] "Waters Of Separation" (55-0606), par. E39 / [5] "That Day On Calvary" (60-0925), par. 56-58 / [6] "Show Us The Father And It Will Satisfy" (60-0731), par. E57 / [7] "Hebrews Chapter 2 Part 3", par. 288-291 / [8] "The Deity Of Jesus Christ" (49-1225), par. 60 / [9] "Hebrews Chapter 6 Part 3" (57-0915M), par. 671 / [10] "The Resurrection" (53-1205), par. E28 / [11] "Possessing The Enemy's Gates" (59-1108), par. 140-143 + 58 / [12] "You Must Be Born Again" (61-1231M), par. 201

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]