

# The Liberating Secret Newsletter

April, 2007

Volume 28

## Ministry News

March has been quite busy for me— I' ve traveled agán to the east coast to teach a women' s retreat at Pawley' s Island, and after returning only a week, I opened my house up for a Steve Pettit, DAY APART. Since this January, I have been through Charlotte, NC 6 times. Interesting, I have no contacts there, other than Louis Tucker right outside of Charlotte, in Concord-I passed through by car and change of airplanes. Hey, I' m glad to be home for a while.

The May Conference is soon going to be here. If you have not gotten your invitation in the mail yet, don' t expect it— I' ve been too busy to mail out almost 700 invites. So, I' ve sent all of you an invitation and respectfully ask you to pass it on to all your friends and family on your e-mailing list. Also, here is a hyper link to a video, personally inviting all who might want to come.

Check it out.

<http://spiritradio.net/video/invitation2007.wmv>

Also, check the [www.theliberatingsecret.org](http://www.theliberatingsecret.org) website for the written invitation with all the info on it.

Pawley' s Island this March was excellent, wonderful, and so inspiring to me. I am seeing many women truly liberated, healed of believing lies about themselves, and others just plain blessed. Don' t miss the fall Pawley' s. Email Jenny for the dates: [jennyfianning@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyfianning@hotmail.com)

One week after I returned from Pawley' s I had a DAY APART featuring Steve Pettit. Oh, how excited I was to see my house filled with God' s people, about 25 all together. Having it in my house was so much better than having it at the Church. It was informal, slower pace, with lots of questions, comments, and people participation. Dave video taped it, it is now on [www.spiritradio.net](http://www.spiritradio.net). Look at the bottom Called " Sermons on Demand." Also, if any one wants a DVD of the two TV shows I did with Steve, just let me know, I will send it to you. We went to our local Public Access cable TV station and made two 30 minute programs. I think that they are dynamite. Steve was great, every one was blessed— Go, Steve, go.

Also, some of the folks from the Day Apart came to Christ, Our Life Church Sunday night. I taught on the "Temptations of Christ." You can find that on [www.colmlouisville.org](http://www.colmlouisville.org) under the 3-25-07 date. John Cardova, our new son, will be teaching next Sunday.

**On The Road Again:** Where to this time? How about West Pittston, Pennsylvania? Debbie and Clark Switzer have invited Scott and me to come to their area June 15- whenever. Debbie ministers in a local prison where the chaplain has gratefully accepted my book, *The Treasures of Darkness*. He has invited me to come to share with the inmates. If anyone knows any chaplain who would accept my book, I will send any reasonable number of books, to you free, so that you can send them to the prisons in your area. Let me know. 502-245-4581

Debbie and Clark are also going to have a meeting in their home on Saturday, and on Sunday I am scheduled to speak at their church. If anyone else in that area, or in that general direction, wants to host a meeting, please let us know early enough so that we can schedule you in.

## News from the Web

Spirit Broadcasting Network: [www.spiritradio.net](http://www.spiritradio.net) Remember this is TV as well as radio. There were 3559 visitors this month.

The Liberating Secret: [www.theliberatingsecret.org](http://www.theliberatingsecret.org)  
There were visitors 1,242. Go God Go!

And [www.colmlouisville.org](http://www.colmlouisville.org) our church site– Catch the great teachings with new teachings added every week.

## A Bible Study Samson and Delilah By Brian Coatney

Samson tears up the legalistic mind because he appears so carnal and unrestrained in his various passions. If the Lord hadn't announced Samson's birth by the angel of the Lord and later confirmed Samson's choice of a wife with a word to Samson's parents,

we would dismiss Samson, considering him merely flesh driven. Also, the verse “the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily” appears three times to herald mighty feats of war against the enemy.<sup>i</sup> Samson, therefore, looks carnal, yet he walks in the Spirit as long as he keeps his Nazirite vow of uncut hair, as well as abstinence from strong drink and unclean foods. These signify that Samson will find his intoxication and purity only in the Spirit of the Lord.

How can Samson walk among the Canaanites without getting defiled? This ability baffles us when we only know legalistic Christianity, for the law minded Christian fearfully seeks purity by avoiding pagan and immoral people, and in fact, God gave the Mosaic covenant to a law minded nation because He knew that they did not yet know the Spirit. One who walks in the Spirit may go anywhere, when called to, without fear of the devil’s culture taking root in him. One must know, however, what walking in the Spirit means.

Walking in the Spirit does not mean performing certain religious rituals to earn the presence of the Spirit; rather, the Spirit is God’s gift to us by faith: we believe and receive. No one makes this point more clearly than Paul, when he says to the Galatians, “This is the only thing I want to find out from you; did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?”<sup>ii</sup> Living in the Spirit comes by simple receptivity.

As long as Samson walked in the Spirit, he was safe from Satan stealing a foothold in him. Samson did not, therefore, keep his hair long or abstain from strong drink and unclean foods by his own strength, but by living in the Spirit. Turning his heart away from the Spirit would also signal letting go the signs of God’s keeping in his life. When we walk in the Spirit, we guard completely the secret of our strength and do not let the harlot’s mind provoke us to our own undoing.

This also means not tempting the Lord and playing presumptuously with the harlot’s mind. In a state of overconfidence, someone accustomed to God’s keeping might take to teasing the enemy and dangerously flirting with the endless provocation of the enemy mind, a mind that never takes a break from its one ever-pressing endeavor to undo our secret of success— walking in the Spirit.

Samson did this, thinking himself a match for Delilah, and we know that Samson had slipped from his Spirit center by playing this “hide and seek” game with Delilah about his strength. Brazenly, Delilah didn’t even mask her intent, for when Samson would lie to her about the source of his strength, she would immediately summon the Philistines to undo him, clearly presenting Samson with her intent. Yet she says to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me ~~the~~ three times...”<sup>iii</sup>

As objective observers, we might say, “How could Samson fall for such an obvious plot?” Yet, we forget that deception comes to us as a powerful spell, that of witchcraft—

a supernatural intoxication of its own kind and one that reason and logic cannot fight: only the Spirit of God can keep us from such a spell. Galatians again confirms this where Paul says, "You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?"<sup>iv</sup> A powerful, false Satanic love potion poured relentlessly out of Delilah, and Samson's only hope lay in affirming the Spirit's keeping of him— backing away from reckless flirtation with the enemy.

Flirtation of this kind stems from belief in one of two lies: we think either the pressure against us will abate, or we think that we will rise up with the strength to overcome it. Neither occurs, for the enemy never stops the endless outpouring of this dizzying, false romantic cloud of infatuation. Further, we possess no resources to extricate ourselves from this kind of demonic potion. All we can do is by faith receive our deliverance and walk in that.

This seemed increasingly impossible to do when Delilah "pressed him daily" so that "his soul was annoyed to death."<sup>v</sup> This is the way the devil works; he presses us until we think we can't take it anymore, as if nothing now can keep us from giving in and going over the edge into a freefall. We tell ourselves then that we're not responsible anymore because of the overwhelming stress upon us.

Never, though, do we find ourselves pulled out without a path of escape; even in our greatest, most exasperating vexation, God offers us a means of escape.<sup>vi</sup> We don't like finding ourselves in a place of vexation so great that we think we can't take one more minute of it. Yet, we often find ourselves in that very place.

When vexed to that degree, we don't help anything by thinking, "I shouldn't have let this get to me like this." Rather, just skip all the condemnation and trust God that what feels impossibly provoking to us is a simple matter for Him in us. We need only trust in His keeping. If we think, "I can't take anymore of this; therefore, I have an excuse to go off, then we have put the focus back onto ourselves and off of God's supernatural, keeping power in us.

What happens when we do resist God's keeping grace and we give in? The enemy operates like a harlot, and so we read of Delilah, "Then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him."<sup>vii</sup> Notice that word affliction. I see in this a deliberate plan, under the false guise of love, to torment and bring into slavery.

When we read of sin's slavery in the Bible, the idea is that we cannot free ourselves; by the Cross, God must do that that by putting us into Christ and Christ into us so that we die in His death, lie in the tomb in His burial, and rise in His resurrection. Samson, therefore, falsely thought, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free."<sup>viii</sup> Instead, he ended up blind and forced into grinding labor for the enemy.

Thankfully, the story doesn't end with defeat; Samson's hair grew back, without the notice of the enemy— a miracle at that. Even after sin, God's forgiveness prevailed, and

Samson's faith returned, along with his desire to rout the enemy by the Spirit of God, which he valiantly did.

This shows that our sins do not mean the end of victory for us. Once we've foolishly given our secret away to the harlot's mind, tasting the bitter consequences, we learn to walk quietly in the Spirit's keeping, defeating the enemy by faith instead of flirting with the enemy. The Spirit becomes to us the sum of all truth and beauty, exceedingly far more our ravishment than the harlot's mind. And so Samson gloriously ends up a knight, leaving us that same example.

## Quote

Do you get it ?

"It's great to be someone else, who is really you." This great quote popped out of Chuck Kirk, Bill Bower's friend in California.

## Letters

Hi Mom,

I had a little run in with a so-called white witch last night. She said that her mother was a 7th generation black witch and that she didn't want to do bad so she decided to be a "good" white witch. She said her mother won't talk to her because of her decision to be a white witch. I think her mother's decision not to talk to her was more largely based on the fact that this so-called white has a major drinking problem and is sucking the life out of everyone that cares for her. As addicts do.

Well, you can imagine where I took the conversation.

I let her no matter black witch or white witch both still serve the same master. She would say no she is good. I told her if you aren't in Christ then you are in Satan. Then Sandy told her a house divided can't stand. The battle is not between black witches and white witches. The battle is between their master and Christ.

With that she fell out of her chair and passed out. I guess when her master heard Christ in Sandy and me then he had to shut her down so that she couldn't. She will be back.

Love  
Dave

PS— Dave just told me today that the white witch went to church seeking the Lord.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hi Sylvia,

Want to share a short story with. While I was visiting you I called my friend Darion at work. Later that afternoon Darion started to pray for you Sylvia, but the Lord cut him off and spoke to Darion saying that "the life He was squeezing out of you Sylvia is the same life He wants to get out of every believer". Darion was attempting to pray for your health but the Lord showed him that we all get one body yet that is not the focus, but rather the life that is lived through the body. Darion is coming to union life my word for him is that he would be a teacher of union truth. Miss you and love to hear your voice on the CD's you gave me. Love you, Paul Chapman

~~~~~  
Sylvia,

You beautiful, anointed, and faithful woman of God, I wanted to tell you how wonderful it was to meet you at the airport on yesterday. You answered so many questions that I had and even some I didn't even ask. I can now see why God told me to look at you as a resource and not a crutch, because I could feel myself wanting to lean on you instead of God. However, you are a wonderful resource (Christ being the source) to the body of Christ and as you could tell, I didn't want the conversation to end. I told my son about the word you gave me for him and I now see him differently. I did see the thing that God is using as my necessary opposite and I've begun to throw my hands up in submission and admission that I cannot deliver "myself" from it.

Love you,  
Darion

## Poem of the Month

### Rest

To steal rest from clamor, that we may do,  
Though the devil barks as if to bite.  
We only seek to see our way through  
All this darkness, by the everlasting light.

These, the atrocities, won' t stop for now,  
Bank as such; they continue til we die.  
Verily the Scripture tells us this, but also how  
In faith not to faint, how quietly to discount the lie.

Wisdom' s many faces you won' t find loud,  
With weapons conventional to kill one' s sin.  
Its spirit slips the knot in an angry crowd,  
Finding the holy place to worship in.

These are not the things most usually said  
To ease the tortured mind in afflicted states,  
To live as if one is already dead,  
Is news the carnal mind most surely hates.

But what would we give for the world, our only soul?  
Yes, we cling, that' s natural, but then let go,  
Repeatedly, yes repeatedly to the end,  
And that is where we get our heavenly glow.

Brian Coatney/3-8-07

<http://theliberatingsecret.org/Poets%20Corner/Coatney/17%20Poems%20by%20BC.pdf>

Check out this link, it has 17 new poems inspired by the Holy Spirit and overflowing with Brian' s own creative style.

## Prayer Request

Please pray for Annette Meade from Forty Forts, Pennsylvania. She is hospitalized with 90% blockage in her heart. Annette is a precious friend of Christ, Our Life Ministries.

Please put our friend, Wayne Parker, on your prayer list. He had surgery for prostate cancer yesterday and today had a blood clot and I think they had to do more surgery. Not sure of all the details, but God knows. Just pray. Thanks, Elena

Pray for Richie Parsons, a old friend of Scott' s-he has some blood leakage at the base of his brain and their not sure what is causing it.

Also, stand with us in prayer and faith for the silent prayers requested on line.

I' ve mentioned this in the past, but now it is official- I was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. I am not led to pray for outer deliverance, because I believe

that I live delivered. Romans 5:10 says, that we are delivered daily by His resurrected/glorified life within. I tell folks that I don't live in my outer body, I live behind the veil of my flesh in the New Man's spiritual body "We are members of his body of his flesh, and of his bones" (Eph. 5:30). And I expect Christ's spiritual body (Romans 8:9-13; I Cor. 15:44-50) to quicken my mortal flesh, and swallow up the disease in my fallen flesh, and replacing it with His eternal health. Will that completely happen in my life time? I don't know, something will have to kill me sooner or later, anyway that is not my concern. What disease doesn't get swallowed up and remains in my body will only be my part in the sufferings of Christ which will bring transforming life in others (II Cor. 4:10-12). Just since this all has happened, I am seeing so much fruit and Spirit advancements in others that I wouldn't have it any other way.

We are not just joined to Christ in our spirits. Our spirit is joined to His Spirit; our soul is joined to Christ's Soul; and our body is joined to Christ's resurrected and glorified body (I Thes. 5:23). My body doesn't belong to me, it is the temple of the Holy Spirit-it belongs to Jesus. So all that is happening to me is not happening to me, it is happening to Him, who is my life. How can I do anything other than rejoice and praise the Lord, who is the Lord of my body, and already is my healing and my eternal health.

Recently a man who I don't even know was praying for me and now writes: The Lord stopped me from praying for you when He said to me, "Her body is not the point, what I am going to squeeze out of her life is the point." It makes me think of a sponge-the water (Christ) swells it/me up, and but when squeezed, the water comes pouring out for others to drink.

Although, I certainly appreciate any prayers that the Lord gives you liberty to pray for me. I love everyone of you, and believe in everyone's part whether you see it the same way as I do, or not.

Hey, The doctor says that they don't even treat my condition for 15 years, because it is slow growing. That makes me 81 before it shows up, if it even does then.

## Words of Faith

"Whatsoever you desire."

Mark 11:22-24

Need produces desire; desire produces faith; faith quenches the pain of desire, and leaps and "laughs at the impossible and shouts, IT SHALL BE DONE." Sylvia Pearce... actually a little of Sylvia and a lot of CT Studd

# This Months Article

## TEMPTATION

Sylvia Pearce

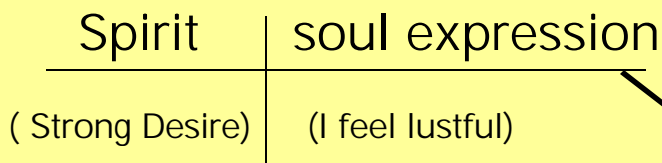
This Chart is a chapter in her new book, What Is Man? Commentary

Chart # 34

### Temptation

(James 1:14)

I am Christ in my form. He/me has no evil desires. What redemptive purposes are you up to Lord? What is my word of faith concerning this?



↑

Enticed by Satan' s lie. You are just you, and you ought not to have these feelings...try to keep yourself...change yourself...war against yourself...fight the devil. (Which gives the law/sin its hold on you.)

Temptations are God' s Calling Card  
and Springboards of Faith

“ Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed” (James 1:14). What about the areas of our, Christ, as us, life that doesn’ t fit with Christ living. What about the many times that we are tempted and even fall under the pressures of temptation and sin? Temptation is very troublesome to us and can be why some say that, the Christ-life doesn’ t work. I believe that exploring the subject will encourage many a weary Christians.

We must start right off and say that temptation is not sin. So many of God’ s people don’ t know the difference between the two which causes most of the guilt we feel. I can remember a time my own life where I confessed every negative thought, and every negative thing that I said as sin. I thought every human reaction was wrong. I wouldn’ t even let myself be human, because somehow I thought that was not being Spiritual. Unknowingly, I was very much centered in on me, and that kind of attitude made me totally self-conscious. All along I was confusing temptation for sin.

I had little to no understanding about temptation. Remember Jesus, the man-God was “tempted in everyway, yet without sin.” And “ For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted.” So, temptation is not sin, and as these scriptures say it causes us to suffer. Since temptation is not sin, then what is it?

Like James says, temptation is a state where we respond to some outer stimuli and which have its first stirrings from within us. The Bible clearly says, that “ God tempts no man,” so the enticement is not coming from God, but from Satan. However, it starts from “ our own lust.” Immediately everybody thinks that there it is we have lust in us, so you see, we do have an evil human nature. Well then Jesus must have had a evil human nature too. Oh, no that would be blaspheme. The point is that he did not, and truthfully neither do we. Although, he still had strong desires just like every other human being. But strong desires don’ t make us have an evil nature- desire is an essential part of what makes us humans beings created in God’ s image. God himself is desire.

Let’ s look at the word, “ LUST.” Webster says lust is “ to have an intense or obsessive desire.” Others say it is “ strong desire.” Why is a strong desire wrog? It isn’ t, but we automatically think of strong desire as something sinful in itself. We will have to say that even Jesus had was tempted to lust. What? “ You say,” not the Son of God! But the Bible clearly says that is what temptation is, “ every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust.” Jesus was a man, not just God, he was also fully man.

Temptation is response to something stimulating me to desire it. It is a normal human reaction. Jesus had them, we have them, they are common to mankind (I Corinthians 10:13). But they are not sin.

Let us think about our bodily reactions--if I were in a cold room, I would get chill bumps. If my finger got smashed, I say, “ ouch,” these are normal human reactions. I don’ t get condemn over these re&actions, do I? That would be pretty silly. What I just described are bodily reactions, but on the other hand, if I have inner soul reactions, I feel guilty, and condemn. Why? It is because I am brain washed by Satan, the accuser of the brethren, to think of my inner negatives or even my too positive human reactions

are sinful and wrong. Not so fast, Satan. God made us human reactors.

Human soul reactions are not good or evil in themselves, they are neutral. They are neither right or wrong in themselves, they are neutral. They don't have a life of their own, they are just reactions. It is always what we end up believing that makes the differences. If I believe that I am my soul reactions (if they feel wrong) and I have to change them, then I am back under the BIG "I' S" LIE. Or if I believe that Jesus is living here and he is handling my reactions, then I can accept myself and be human and know that Jesus is using it all for His good.

We humans are three levels of strong desire. We wouldn't even eat food without bodily desires, we wouldn't want companionship without soulish desires, and we wouldn't ever want God without Spiritual desires. So desire is what the human being is on three levels of existence.

Temptation is actually a very important part of our sanctification process. Satan, was released on Job, and the suffering of it proved to Job that he was not self-reliant, but only a simple vessel of another. If we are beat up enough by Satan, we will surely know that we have no human powers to conquer ourselves. It is in the pit of Satanic attacks where we learn the illusion of independent-self. So, Satan is really a convenient agent in the all knowing hand of God, as he uses him to bring us to the end of ourselves.

Now what is the enticement in verse 14? It must come from Satan. Satan is tempting you to identify yourself with your soulish and bodily desires, and he makes you feel that you need something for yourself. "That you are a needy me." At that time we are beginning to forget who we are, and go with the temptation. Remember, this is not sin yet. Yes, temptation is the first forms of sin, but not sin. We have to know how to turn the temptations around, by coming to our Spiritual senses and remembering who we really are. However, I always tell the Holy Spirit, "Holy Spirit it is your job to remind me, I will never remember who I am if you don't remind me." When the Spirit reminds me, I remember that I really don't want anything for myself, or I really don't want to misuse myself, or someone else. I might think I do, and I might feel like I do, but I am really joined to Christ and He doesn't want to sin, and neither do I. I divide, soul thoughts from spirit intent.

So, temptation ends up being a springboard to faith in Christ. It is mean to stimulate us to faith, not to sin. The walk of faith requires a negative to refuse for the positive to spring forth. Somewhat like a sling-shot, the negative is the thrust to propel the positive. Temptation is God's calling card to faith. It ends up being our friend, and not our great enemy, that is, when you learn to turn it around God ward.

Temptation can go a long way before it becomes sin, James 1:15 says, "When lust has conceived, it brings forth sin." Temptation is saying, "I want to do it," while sin is saying, "I will do it." Sin is when lust "has conceived" with another spirit, then it brings forth sin. That does not mean that you are not married to Christ anymore, no, it means that you have slipped out on your marriage and had an adulteress affair. The cleansing blood is always available. Praise the Lord for the blood, and do not promise God that won't do it again. Tell Him that you will do it unless He keeps you, and leap by faith and say that He better get on the job keeping you, and take another leap and say "He is keeping me."

Let us look into Jesus' own temptations, trials and testing as our "Last Adam" and see how he overcame Satan's temptation. He was baptized the Son of God at the Jordan River. But he was also the Son of Man. He had to be tested on the human level. How does the divine Spirit live and operate in a human body? That had to be fully tested and proven. The Scriptures say that He was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. Most Christians never think of God, the Father driving Jesus to be tested by Satan, but he did. There is an element of resistance in Jesus or he would not have to be driven. Let's explore his wilderness experience and the enemy of his soul, Satan.

Satan main purpose through temptation is to pull us off of who we are and make us think that we are independent-self-sufficient being. If we think that way, then we will operate that way, and he has us under his false control.

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 prophesized by the prophets centuries earlier of the coming king and divine-man, who was to be called the Son of God. But Jesus was both, Son of God, and Son of man.

The question is, was Jesus going to stand true in his anointing as the Son of man, 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 had lost his world's dominion and glorious divine image, now was the second Adam going to do the same thing? Hebrews 5: 8 starts to the 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 learned as a man how to trust the indwelling Spirit in him, and not his own human resources which would have been satanic.

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 dwell 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." The First Adam fell on all three levels of his being, the Last Adam, Christ had to be confronted on all three levels and found victorious, in order to gain back what Adam lost.

"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 a 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 himself? Jesus waited—he did nothing! He did not deny this temptation, he accepted it, but he waited—he dare not respond in any way from his own mental capacities.

So he waited on His consort, the eternal Spirit of wisdom and power dwelling within Him to answer to Satan's temptation. Satan is too subtle and too powerful for mere humanity, even Jesus'. If Jesus drew from his own flesh wisdom and power to fight against Satan's attacks it would have all been over. 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. 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 was not sustained by outer food, but by the logos, the eternal Word of God.

"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.

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 is the miraculous? 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 angels 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—temptation is always in this form, Satan is always tempting us to launch out and operate independently from who we really are.

Satan was after his soul, would Jesus perform by self-effort to try 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.

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 you take it?" Again Jesus waited, "Father I only really want your will." The light came. "Wait, it isn't me that wants this, it is Satan's wants in me." "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. After he regained his bodily strength, the Holy Spirit anointed his humanity and he was declared the Son of man. Jesus could say with authority, "Of my own self, I can do nothing, but what I see the Father do, I do."

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.

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<sup>i</sup> Judges 14, 6, 19 and Judges 15:14 (all citations are from the NASB)

<sup>ii</sup> Galatians 3:2

<sup>iii</sup> Judges 16:15

<sup>iv</sup> Galatians 3:1

<sup>v</sup> Judges 16:16

<sup>vi</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>vii</sup> Judges 16:19

<sup>viii</sup> Judges 16:20